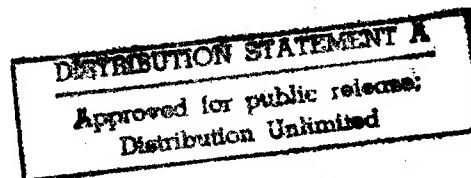


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29 March 1985

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AFGHANISTAN

LAND, WATER REFORM IMPLEMENTATION TO CONTINUE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 8 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] The General Secretary of the PDPA CC and the President of Revolutionary Council of the DRA, in a meeting with cotton cultivators of the country explicitly announced:

"Land belongs to those who work and till it. This is and will be the original slogan and the ultimate objective of our party, a party which is always at your service, i.e., the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Such has been and will be the desire of the state and government of the DRA that is, of your government".

The PDPA and its leadership by identifying precisely the concrete conditions of the country in order to materialise this aspiration in the interest of the working peasantry are taking steps to fully implement the democratic water and land reforms.

The state and party organs have been asked to speed up this process.

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers meeting with the cotton cultivators stated:

"The PDPA CC and the Government of the DRA, have taken important decisions in connection with the implementation of water and land reforms. Under the leadership of Babrak Karmal General Secretary of PDPA CC and the President of Revolutionary Council of the DRA, a central commission is functioning to implement these reforms. The related legislation envisages rational measures for the successful implementation of water and land reforms, with due account being taken of the interests of working peasants of different districts and all the possibilities for increasing grain, cotton, fruit, vegetable and livestock production.

In accordance with the directions of Babrak Karmal at the PDPA CC and the Ministers Council of the DRA, have considered comprehensively the factors which obstruct the implementation of land reforms.

As a result several amendments were brought in the laws regulating the

affairs of land ownership, which guaranteed the interest of working peasantry. The peasants were exempted from making repeated monetary payments.

Now upto 30 jeribs (5 jeribs equals to 1 hect.) of first grade land or equivalent to that can be distributed to a landless peasant family.

The mass media pointed. In order to accelerate the pace of land and water reforms, to provide facilities for the peasants and avoid the fragmentation of gardens and vineyards the decree No. 8 on land reforms was amended. The amendments provide exemption to the peasants from payment of registration and transfer fees. The land holding ceiling was raised to 30 jeribs (6 hectares) of first grade land.

The PDPA while solving the land problem extends all possible financial and material assistance to peasants especially to the landless peasants and small holders who have received plots of land under the land reform programme.

Proceeding from the main directions of Programme of Action, the land policy of the PDPA envisages the utilization of all financial and material means to distribute chemical fertilizer, improved seeds, agricultural machine tools and other farm implements to the peasants.

Peasant councils and peasant committees should take active part in the democratic land and water reforms.

A number of important and fruitful steps have been taken to assist peasants in the new and evolutionary phase of the April Revolution as under.

Four million thirty thousand peasant families and land owners were exempted from payment of a total of Afis 22 million owed by them to the government on account of revenue dues. The price of chemical fertilizer was lowered down by 20 per cent and purchase price of cotton and sugarbeet was once again raised to 80 and 70 per cent respectively.

The PDPA also pays attention to the development of cooperatives.

According to Programme of Action of the party the land and water reforms are being successfully implemented in provinces. New canals, and deep wells were drilled to expand the area of irrigated lands.

Attention is being paid to improve pastures and to promote level of livestock breeding, veterinary services have been expanded.

According to Programme of Action of the Party, Agricultural machines, chemical fertilisers, improved seeds and all variety of livestock of high standard are being provided on fair price to the peasants, and livestock owners.

Opportunities are being provided to the working nomads to settle them in places of their liking.

There are an estimated 417 thousand nomad families in our country. Its true that all of them can not leave nomadic life at once. To help them achieve this end the government according to Programme of Action of the PDPA is opening livestock raising and marketing cooperatives.

Plots and reduction rate loans through state credits will be made available to nomads to build their own houses.

Short and long range programmes for the improvement of living condition of nomad have been planned, and will be implemented gradually. Many deep wells will be drilled on the routes frequented by nomads to supply water to their live stocks as well as drinking water to nomads.

Veterinary services will be made available to them and pastures will be improved.

Medical and cultural services for them are also included in the programme.

As experience shows we can overcome obstacles by waging collective work. New agricultural production and marketing cooperatives are being opened and already existing ones are being improved. Through these cooperative the peasants are helped in selling their agricultural products and purchase industrial goods and other needed materials consumer cooperatives will be expanded in towns and villages.

Excess lands of big land lords and lands owned by royalty are being distributed to peasants and nomads. The land should belong to them who work and till it. The same procedures is being applied in case of newly developed lands.

Some parts of excess lands of land lords have been allocated to model agricultural farms.

Health and cultural centers as well as literacy courses are being opened for the peasants.

AFGHANISTAN

EQUITABLE WATER DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 13 Feb 85 pp 2, 4

[Text] The work on allocation of equitable quotas of irrigation water in Afghanistan is steadily continuing parallel to the work on the implementation of democratic land reforms. For instance, water quotas were given to over 16,500 peasant families only in the first nine months of the current Afghan year, says a responsible spokesman of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources.

"In the past," the spokesman adds: "Water and the water sources were at the disposal of a handful feudal lords and influential elite. Therefore, they cultivated on their own will as much land as they had and made the utmost use of water and water resources at the expense of other peasants.

"The past regimes had not worked out concrete plans for irrigation, effective use of water, its just distribution, and preservation and maintenance of irrigation works. Therefore, the landless peasants and petty land holders failed to grow their crops due to the lack of irrigation water.

"With the victory of the April Revolution, particularly its new and evolutionary phase, beside other fruitful socioeconomic programmes, the state has paid special attention to issues related to water and irrigation in the country and taken major steps towards solving them. Among these one can name the promulgation of the Law on Water and the Regulation on the Use of Water in Agriculture. With the enactment of these two important documents, water has come to belong to the people, most of the problems related to the effective use, just distribution of water, preservation and maintenance of water resources, establishments, and irrigational systems, have been solved. In order to enable the peasants to make utmost use of water and water resources, irrigational institutions have been established in 29 provinces of the country and Khost division. Such networks are being extended to districts. So far such institutions have been established in 17 districts. The said institutions are equipped with necessary personnel, constructional equipment, transport and so on and the process of their equipping is continuing in full swing. For instance, so far, as many as 1,121 engineers and employees and tens of sets of varied machines such as bulldozers, showels,

transport means, and mobile workshops have been put at the disposal of irrigational institutions in the provinces for rendering technical assistance to peasants."

The spokesman added: "The aim of all these assistance is to enable our peasants to make an utmost and effective use of water and irrigational resources. The aim is also to increase the irrigational possibilities and the enhancement of agricultural production."

Following can be said concerning the distribution of water in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Water and the Regulation on the Use of Water in Agriculture:

—A person can use water for irrigational purposes, provided his quota is fixed in the related documents and accords with the local customs and traditions.

—The quantity of water needed for irrigation is specified taking in view the area of cultivation, the type of the crop, irrigational schedule, quota documents, local customs and the available water resources.

—The use of irrigational system takes place in accordance with the plans on use and distribution of water, prepared on the order of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Reforms and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms.

→ In years when there

is paucity of water the organs of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources adopt necessary measures with the agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms and the participation of water foremen for the redistribution of water keeping in mind the priority of irrigation of seasonal crops.

In the Law on Water and the Regulation on the Use of Water in Agriculture, great value has been attached to the local customs and traditions. This accords with the provisions of the Fundamental Principles of the DRA. Besides, the spokesman added, we are hopeful to solve all problems related to the distribution and use of water scientifically.

Water foremen, who are the authoritative representatives of water consumers in irrigational system, are elected in general sessions by the water consumers in a democratic manner in accordance with the provisions of Water Law and prevailing customs in localities. Similarly, the members of peasants Committees and water consumers which are the most authoritative local organs for the solution of irrigational problems in localities, are also elected in these sessions for a sp-

ecific time.

Water foremen, as being the authoritative representatives of water consumers, have an important role to play in solving all problems related to disputes over water, reconstruction and maintenance of irrigational system and establishments. They are responsible before the water consumers and are obliged to present reports concerning their performance at general sessions. Likewise, water foremen organise voluntary works, fix the time for cleaning the canals, fortification of head dams and other works.

According to the decisions of the committees, they also attain credits from the Agricultural Development Bank for reactivation and reconstruction of irrigational establishments.

They guide the peasants in the maintenance of irrigational systems.

The irrigational institutions of the provinces, conducting vast publicity work, have been able to draw the necessary attention of water foremen and in the course of not long a time, i.e., only in last two-three years, as many as 665 foremen have been elected in a free and democratic manner by the water consumers, and this process is continuing.

FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR WORKERS TO CONTINUE EDUCATION

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 18 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] The Institute of Labor Education (College of Labor) has readied many possibilities for the continued education of the toiling workers of our country, especially those who, because of economic difficulties, have not been able to complete their studies, as one of the contributions of the revolutionary years.

Speaking on the subject, the director of the Institute of Labor Education said: The college was established in 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] as an adjunct of Kabul University with first and second grades. The students have science and social studies and complete the 2-year program in two 10-month semesters. After graduating from this college they are referred to Kabul University for continuation of learning on the basis of pre-set requirements and their grades.

At present 137 students are enrolled in this college. To help their learning, 1,500 afghani per month is paid to day students while those staying at dormitories get 500 afghani as allowance. They also get two suits per year.

Nur-ol-Rahman, 2nd year (grade 12 equivalent) student of labor education says: In 1978 I was in the 8th elementary grade in Golbahar when the culture-devoid brigands burned our school. A year later they deprived me of my father, and as then head of family, I gave up my schooling to make a living for my family. Now, as a result of the concern of the party and the government, continuation of my higher learning has been made possible.

Sharifeh, first year labor education student (equivalent of 10th grade) says: I had studied at home until the 4th grade and after that as a result of the attention of the party and the government, "vital literacy" schools were opened. I enrolled in the Vazir Akbar Khan "vital literacy" school, staying there until the 8th grade. I am now at the labor [education] college and intend to continue on at Kabul University.

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CSO: 4665/25

AFGHANISTAN

USE OF AGRICULTURE MACHINERY EXPANDS

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 31 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] During his trip to the province of Balkh, the correspondent of DEHQAN sent the following report on the activities of the Agriculture and Land Reform Department of that province: A source in the Agriculture and Land Reform Department said: Farming acreage in Balkh Province totals 363,746 hectares of which 249,747 hectares comprise irrigated farmland and 114,000 hectares dry-farming areas. The province also has 138,892 hectares of productive and non-productive natural forestland, 25,000 hectares of orchards and 137,635 hectares of grazing lands.

In the 1363 spring campaign [beginning 21 March 1984] 116,331 hectares went under wheat, barley, cotton, grains, vegetable and oil seed cultivation, with 147,216 tons of wheat being harvested by the peasants. During the campaign 170 tons of improved wheat seed was given to peasants against cash or credit and they received 3,612 tons of chemical fertilizer in order to improve output. Also, the Agricultural Development Bank of the province extended loans totalling 6,910,060 afghani and in order to provide more help to peasants, wheat seed and chemical fertilizer was shipped to distant localities.

In order to help in the tilling and other farm work during the spring cultivation, machinery put at the disposal of peasants was used in the tilling, grading, cultivating and raking of 4,600 hectares of land, and, in addition 1,444 tons of cottonseed was distributed among peasants by the Gin and Press corporation. In order to familiarize peasants with scientific and technical methods of agriculture, 4 plots of land within the holding of peasants were sown free of charge as models with wheat and 38 plots with cotton.

The source added: Chemicals valued at 35,884,481 afghani were placed at the disposal of peasants to be used to prevent plant and animal diseases. In order to help in harvesting, 19 combines were made available to peasants and harvested 3,962 hectares of wheat and barley.

The source had this to say about state farms in the province: There are 11 state farms, comprising 17,135 irrigated land and 19,000 dry-farming acreage, in Balkh Province, generally producing wheat, barley, lentils, sesame seed and cotton. During the current year [starting 21 March 1984] 1,128 jarib of irrigated land and 5,000 jarib of dry-farming land was cultivated and mechanically

harvested, giving an output of 173 tons, of which 158 tons were given to the Improved Seed Office to be placed at the disposal of peasants. Also, 85 jarib of land was sown with cotton in the Khaseh-Paz farm, giving an output of 4,200 kilograms which were turned over to the Cotton and Seed Oil agency while the rest is being harvested each day.

The source commented thus about agricultural cooperatives of the province: There are 19 agricultural cooperatives active in Balkh Province, with 6,003 peasants owning the equivalent of 33,349 first grade farmland, participating. The capital share of members stands at 2,169,452 afghani.

There has been a lot of help given to peasants through these cooperatives in the form of chemical fertilizer, seed and agricultural equipment.

The source added: Moreover, as a result of the deep interest of the party and government in the expansion of animal husbandry, programs and plans of general benefit to livestock breeders have been started, one such project being the establishment of a karakul research farm in Balkh Province. The purpose of the farm is to conduct research and help in expanding and increasing the karakul sheep population and in improving the breed in Balkh and neighboring provinces.

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CSO: 4665/39

AFGHANISTAN

FARMERS IN KONARHA RECEIVE FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES

Kabul ANIS in Dari 7 Feb 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] A total acreage of 17,340 hectares of irrigated and dry-farming areas in the administrative center and other localities of Konar province were cultivated with wheat, corn and vegetables during the farming campaign of the current year [starting 21 March 1984].

The statement was made by the director of the Agriculture and Land Reform Office in Konar, during an interview with correspondent of ANIS, who said: Of this acreage, 14,000 hectares went under wheat cultivation, 2,500 hectares under local barley cultivation and 800 hectares under vegetable cultivation, this comprised 16,185 hectares done by individuals, 15 hectares by the Land Reform Office and 300 hectares by farming service cooperatives.

Speaking of the completed activities of the office during the preceding 9 months, he said: During the last spring cultivation campaign, 7,000 irrigated hectares were sown with corn, rice, vegetables and cereals: 3,000 hectares with rice paddy, 2,300 hectares with corn, 1,000 hectares with cereals and vegetables and 700 hectares with industrial plants and bushes were sown or set.

In regard to non-fruit bearing and decorative plants such as evergreens, juniper and beech, 35,000 saplings and 6,000 producing trees were planted in orchards, government farms and private acreage in the province--a 5 percent increase in such activities as compared with the previous spring campaign. We were also able to set up a chicken farm in order to solve the problems of our respected Asadabad residents.

Moreover, a livestock, vegetable and plant extension station is being put up on 12 hectares of Karhali farmland of Asadabad city. Once operating, products of the farm will have a significant effect in controlling prices in Asadabad.

Noticeable measures and initiatives have been taken in helping peasants to fight and prevent plant diseases.

At present an office of Afghan Chemical Fertilizer Company has been opened there and is supplying various pesticides to peasants and orchard-owners at reasonable prices.

In the past 9 months of the year [which began 21 March 1984] 200 tons of chemical fertilizer and 45 tons of improved seed have been distributed against cash while 1,400 head of livestock and 18,500 have received preventive vaccination or treatment.

According to the plan for the first nine months of the year, 2 agricultural cooperatives were recently put into operation, with the membership to date of 175 peasants.

Moreover, in the same period 392 peasants with little or no land previously received their official land ownership deeds during various gatherings while a total of 17 agricultural cooperatives have been set up in the administrative center of Konar Province and its districts and subdistricts. Of these 12 are active and provide benefits to farmers. Recently we also reactivated a cooperative in Sarkani district. It is noteworthy that the acreage of these cooperatives is 3,443 jarib, with a membership of 1,327 peasants and a capital of 414,811 afghani.

Also in this period, 392 official land ownership deeds were distributed among farmers with previously little or no land in the course of land reforms in villages of Asadabad city and more than 1,600 jarib second-grade land was liquidated. In order to speed up the land reform program, No 24 land reform operational teams went to the Chowki district of Konar Province and began work there. According to the plan of the Kulmali peasants council, the chairman and the deputy of the council and its members were chosen in free and democratic fashion at a splendid ceremony in which a number of elders, farmers and officials of local organs were present.

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CSO: 4665/39

AFGHANISTAN

POL-E KHOMRI SILO TO BUY OVER 20,000 TONS WHEAT

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 1 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] The Silo facility at Pol-e Khomri was begun in 1955 with overall cooperation of our friendly, neighboring USSR and under supervision of its experts south of the attractive and industrial city of Pol-e Khomri and began operating 2 years later as a mechanized storage for grains needed by various agencies, military units, the police and other of our citizens both in Baghlan Province and elsewhere. Following the Sawr Revolution and especially its new and evolutionary phase, particular attention was given to expanding the facility so as to meet the needs of and improve living conditions of the respected people of this province. As a result, a 60-ton-per-8-hour-shift flour mill was set up alongside the facility with the cooperation and under the supervision of the USSR and since its operation has been turning out 60 tons of flour per day which meets the needs of 8,000 coupon holders, military and police units and various agencies in the area. In addition, some 1,000 tons of flour is sent to Kabul each month.

In providing the above information to the correspondent of HEYWAD, engineer Seyyed Anwar, manager of the Pol-e Khomri silo said: According to a decision by the Council of Ministers, the silo facility this year had been assigned the task of buying from Baghlan farmers and storing 10,000 tons of wheat. We were able to buy 20,600 and had to send 3,000 tons to Kabul because of lack of storage space. As a result of fulfilling 171 percent of our set plan for the 22 June-22 August 1984 quarter we received a flag of honor. At the moment our 20,000-ton reserve elevator holds wheat to full capacity.

He added: It must be added: Since the flour mill is continuing to operate, the 20,000 tons of reserve wheat will not suffice to meet the requirement of the mill. As a result our revolutionary government decided to add another 20,000-ton-capacity reserve unit to the facility. Construction of this addition was started in 1983 with the cooperation of the Soviet Union and under supervision of the Afghan Construction Unit and is expected to be completed a year from now.

He said in response to a question: The future plan of this institution calls for construction of a bakery plant, a paddy threshing plant with a capacity of 1,000 tons in a 24-hour period and a 20,000 rice storage unit.

A basic party organization and the Guild Federation of the Pol-e Khomri silo facility are sponsoring literacy and vocational training courses, with those working there showing a 100 percent membership in the guild union.

AFGHANISTAN

MAZAR-E SHARIF FERTILIZER, ELECTRICITY PLANT ACTIVITIES EXAMINED

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 28 Jan 85 pp 4, 7

[Text] The fertilizer and power plant at Mazar-e Sharif is a major economic project of the country set up with the help of the fraternal country of the USSR. Construction work of the project was begun in 1345 [21 March 1966-20 March 1967] and the plant began production in 1354 [21 March 1975-20 March 1976].

The successes and activities of the workers and administrative employees of the project during the years of its productivity are mentioned here: The plant has had a constructive and valuable role in the country from the point of view of urea fertilizer production as well as strengthening the agricultural sector and absorbing a work force which now stands at 2,100 people. Parallel with the importance of the plant in helping increase farm output, its electricity output has played a big part in supplying power to Mazar-e Sharif and Balkh and consequently contributing to improving life for the people of the province and it has helped keep the factories and industrial installations going.

This plant, which began operating on 10 October 1974, has been able to produce 959,846.2 tons of urea fertilizer valued at 5.7 billion afghani during its 10 years of work--656,210.51 tons were delivered to domestic users, 276,459.34 tons were shipped to fraternal USSR and 14,240 tons of urea were exported to other countries. Its thermal power which is fueled by domestic natural gas produces 36 megawatts during a 24-hour period. Eighty-five percent of the electricity produced by its 3 turbines is used within the plant and the remainder goes to provide electricity for Mazar-e Sharif and Balkh district.

As a result of revolutionary work and struggle of the stalwart workers, the institution received the international Gold Mercury award, it was third in the 1982 nationwide work competition receiving an honorary award and 100,000 afghani and in the same type of competition the following year came first in the fertilizer-electricity division, receiving a victory flag and 200,000 afghani.

The steering committee of the primary political organization of the institution has consistently tried, in consultation with the administrators, to

create better working and living conditions for workers and employees of the plant, while 1,603 workers from various sections have been trained by specialists of the fraternal country and by domestic engineers and since the plant has been built by the fraternal USSR and specifications and manuals for running the complicated machinery of the plant are in Russian, 198 technical workers have received Russian-language training and some of them even have gotten their proficiency certificates.

Moreover, 20 literacy courses have been set up with the participation of 400 workers, aimed at the elimination of illiteracy. At the present time 600 workers and employees of this institution are living in modern residential quarters which have such things as central heating, modern bathrooms and so on. Also various sports facilities and recreational outlets have been provided for the wellbeing of workers such as gymnasium, soccer, volleyball, body building, chess and music--all within a township. Children's rooms and kindergartens have been provided where children of workers play and learn. There is also a modern built and equipped school in the residential sector for the children of workers.

There is also a medical clinic for the workers and a pharmacy which the Guild Federation helped put up. The political party committee is expanding its role among workers in ever increasing manner, so that at present 373 workers and employees have been organized in 7 party branches and 30 group organizations while another 2,050 other individuals are enrolled in 9 party branches and 74 group organizations. Also 32 women and young girls have joined the Women's Organization while 54 others have joined the Organization of Democratic Youth.

5854

CSO: 4665/33

AFGHANISTAN

SURFACE TRANSPORT OF GOODS INCREASES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 8 Feb 85 p 1

[Text]

There are two types of inland transportation in our country namely the surface and the air transportation. Transfer of all commodities and passengers is carried out by these two types of transportations.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Transport explaining the activities of his Ministry, gave the following information: "During the current year, in order to better utilize the transport means in accordance with the needs of national economy and to ensure effective use of other means and modern technology in surface transport, a number of regulations have been enacted and enforced to improve the performance and activities of the ministry and preparation of a new scales of wages on new lines, i.e., on the basis of wages conforming to quantity and quality of work.

In view of the topographical characteristics and the geographical situation of

Afghanistan, roads and highways constitute the base of transport system of the country. For this reason, necessary measures for the betterment of surface transport and its subsequent development, have been adopted".

Explaining the growth of transport in state sector the spokesman added: "The state transport system was created after the April Revolution by the revolutionary party and state and has successfully developed with the disinterested assistance of friendly countries, particularly of the Soviet Union.

"In 1980, the Soviet Union delivered 1,500 Kamaz heavy duty trucks to our country as gratis aid. By now, six enterprises for goods transportation have been established under the Ministry of Transport. As a result of the development of state transport sector and the establishment of state transport institutions today 24 per cent of state imports are transferred fr-

om the border ports to different localities of the country through state owned transport means".

The spokesman added: "At present, the construction work on a transport establishment near the airport and on five stations for technical services in Kabul city, Dashte Chamtala, Pulikhumri, Mazar-e-Sharif, Hairatan and Torghondi is continuing".

As regards the implementation of the plan, the spokesman said: "In the course of first half of the current Afghan year, the volume of goods transfer by goods forwarding institutions of the Ministry of Transport increased from 186.6 thousand tons to 198.9 thousand tons. This shows an increase of 12,100 tons than envisaged in the plan. The implementation of plan on ton basis estimation was materialised by 106.5 per cent showing 52.3 per cent increase as compared to the performance of the corresponding period of last year.

"The plan on ton basis estimation of private sector was also implemented by

105.5 per cent, that is to say 14.8 per cent more than the quantity of transported during the same period of last year".

The source added: "In the transport sector a number of transport projects have been undertaken with the technical and economic cooperation of Soviet Union. Similarly, during the current Afghan year, the Ministry of Transport is working on four carried over, four new projects as well as seven other projects financed by the credit of the Central Bank.

In the technical and transport centre, inaugurated recently in Dashte Chamtala, a big technical workshop was created for repairing transportation means. Professional and skilled workers are working in this workshop.

The photo shows Amir Gul and Abdul Hodoud, workers of engine section who have taken a valuable part in repairing oil tankers.

AFGHANISTAN

BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS PROVIDED FOR WORKERS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 10 Feb 85 p.1

[Text]

Two thousand one hundred workers of the factories chemical fertiliser and power generation complex of Mazari Sharif have been organised in the trade union of the complex. The trade union plays a vital role in enhancement of the production level. For instance, despite the destructive role of the bandits who blew up the gas pipeline of the factory eleven times only during the current year, the annual production plan of the factory was completed on 23rd Jan. 1984 thanks to the untiring work and efforts of the workers and officials of the factory. Mohammad Sadiq President of the trade union of the complex narrating the above added: "The workers of the complex while turning the wheels of the production with one hand, bravely hold arms in the other hand so as to defend the revolution.

Thus some 1300 militant workers are organised in the self-defence group to

defend the complex.

He pointed out that in its turn the TU deems its duty to provide the workers with all possible facilities and thus with the initiation of the TU some 200 hectares of land near the factory have been cultivated the production of which is partly put for the daily consumption of the workers and the rest is sold at sixty percent discount to the workers. Moreover a dairy farm has been established by the union. It has some 10 cows right now.

Besides creches and kindergartens been built for the children of the workers. As well a health clinic consisting of different sections i.e. general medicine gynaecology and obstetrics surgery, family guidance, X-rays and various laboratories, is and the service of workers and their relatives free of charge. And most of the workers have been provided with free residential flats.

AFGHANISTAN

TV STATIONS MEET CULTURAL NEEDS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 10 Feb 85 p 2

[Text]

Ghazni TV station equipped with modern transmitting facilities was recently inaugurated and has started its telecasts.

A spokesman of Radio-TV broadcasts for provinces, told a correspondent of Kabul New Times:

The TV is an important part of mass-media. It plays a valuable role in mass communication. Therefore, the state pays special attention to the expansion of TV networks to the provinces. The working people must have a chance to have a first-hand knowledge of what is going on in the country and abroad. The TV telecasts have a profound impact on the process of the unity of our people, too.

In view of its educational, cultural and recreational importance and the instruction given by the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers regarding the installation of the TV station in provinces, practical measures were taken and local telecasts began in four provinces, namely Kandahar, Herat, Nangarhar and Ghazni.

Presently, there is one hour TV programme of provinces from the national hook-up includes educational programmes in Dari,

and Pashto, news and music. This programme is relayed to provincial TV stations from 6 to 7 in the morning through Shamsbad satellite, ground station gifted by the Soviet Union.

Another one hour programme is telecast by the local TV stations themselves according to their own schedule. This includes music, concerts, feature, cartoon, and documentary films, commentaries major domestic and international developments, play and a number of other scientific, informative, cultural, and recreational programmes.

It must be added that twice in a week feature and serial films are published, hence TV programmes last more than two hours.

It is envisaged to set up TV stations in the centres of Farah province and Khost division up to the end of the current Afghan year (begun March 20th). Similarly on the basis of the joint developmental plan of State Committee for Radio-TV and Cinematography and the Ministry of Communication, TV stations shall also be installed in other provinces with the assistance rendered by the Soviet Union.

AFGHANISTAN

VARIOUS REFORMS UNDERWAY IN BALKH

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 8 Feb 85 p 4

[Text] The revolutionary power is strengthening with every passing day in the Balkh province. In the current year 1,556 mercenaries were killed and 161 captured and 595 assorted weapons confiscated by the heroic armed forces of the country. Most of the districts and subdistricts of the province are now free from the filthy existence of the counterrevolution and the prideful flag of the revolution is hoisted there.

In the province, tribal battalions, groups of defenders of revolution and NFF councils are functioning and jointly safeguarding the revolutionary power.

Industrial plants and other production institutions in the province are functioning normally at their optimum level, and most of them are ahead of their envisaged plans.

More than 20,000 students of the province attend 53 schools of which 24 are located in the far-flung corners of the province. Besides the already established projects, new projects are also under construction in the province in spite of the hinderance created by the counter-revolutionary elements. One of these projects is the 220 volt power transmission line the work on which is in progress.

In a number of villages and localities of the province the second phase of the democratic land and water reforms is nearing completion. In the course of the ten-months of current year in the vicinities of the province over 20,000 water share allotment documents were distributed to the peasants. Thirteen peasants and 10 consumer cooperatives, the later with 5,000 members, are functioning in the province. From among these cooperatives seven are located in the villages. Eighteen cooperative stores supply the primary needs of the people and those of the members of the cooperative at a price 10 to 30 percent lower than the market price.

In the spring sowing campaign in the province more than 65 thousand hectares of land have been cultivated with agricultural crops. The Mechanised Station of Mazar Sharif put altogether 43 tractors and nine combines at the disposal of the working peasantry of the Balkh province. The peasants are quite satisfied with the machinery. The people of the province by holding tribal assemblies solve their disputes and problems, among themselves. For example, in

the current year alone more than 15 jirgahs (assemblies) were held in the province under the auspices of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs. As a result, six armed groups laid down their weapons and came over to the side of the government and people.

CSO: 4600/309

AFGHANISTAN

WOMEN'S COUNCIL TO GROW IN VARIOUS AREAS

Kabul ANIS in Dari 8 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] The victory of the Sawr Revolution and its new and evolutionary stage saw the establishment of the political sovereignty of the workers and an end to the dominance of the feudalistic ruling classes. The women of our country who, through the length of history, had suffered inequality, insult, humiliation, discrimination and pain, were freed for the first time and are now bravely participating with equal rights with men in the reconstruction of the new and blossoming Afghanistan.

For a long period, the women of the country, under the guidance of the PDPA and the honorific Organization of Democratic Women of Afghanistan [ODWA], have played a significant role in the social and political struggles of the country and now are participating in worthwhile and active fashion in the formation of women's councils and playing an important role in enlightening, informing and organizing the wide strata of women and the propagation and clarification of the goals of the Sawr Revolution. An example of this can be seen in the Kabul County Council of the ODWA which was organized in 1980. The dauntless members of this council day to day visit with determination villages and hamlets around Kabul and set the foundations of organization among the wide masses of women.

Women daily visit the offices of district and village councils, join in literacy courses, form mobile propaganda units which carry out their job of enlightening and informing women and families of peasants and help women understand the revolution and benefits it has produced. Up to now 150 brave women of various Kabul districts, in cooperation with the provincial council, have taken up arms in defense of the revolution. More than 1,400 women are participating in the activities of this council in bringing out other women from isolation and seclusion.

The women of Kabul districts, under the guidance of this council, willingly take part in social and productive work such as the 261 individuals who work on the same wage scale as men at the Bagrami mills and 3 of whom took part at a meeting of top workers and producers and received medals of dedication to work.

Following the 14th PDPA plenum and the 14th plenum of the central council of the ODWA, this council held its own first plenum under the slogan of "Greater

Widening Move Toward the Countryside." The plenum critically assessed shortcomings and inadequacies and took effective decisions to intensify even more activities centering on organizing, informing and educating women in various localities. The first plenum of the Kabul provincial council of the ODWA was effective enough to mobilize peasant women in the membership ranks of the original 7 peasant organizations, helped peasant women in protecting agricultural cooperatives and other benefits of the revolution and has set up 36 new literacy courses for women in various localities, such courses being conducted by volunteer council members.

There have been regular contacts with dependents of martyrs of the revolutionary road, necessary attention being devoted to the resolution of economic and social problems as well as the problem of the education of their children. Since the Kabul provincial council of the ODWA is collectively a member of the National Fatherland Front of the DRA, it has devoted productive efforts in organizing women in their local residential councils. They have done this by making its goals known and preparing the way for participation of women in the front.

5854

CSO: 4665/25

AFGHANISTAN

WOMEN'S EDUCATION TO RECEIVE ATTENTION

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 8 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] It is obvious that with the victory of the irreversible Sawr Revolution and its new and evolutionary stage, woman, this suffering human being of our society, has, after the men, attained many freedoms, numerous means have become available for her intellectual growth and expanded capability and more areas of work and activity are opening up for her.

As a result of the attention of our revolutionary party and government a large number of women of our country, who, because of the dominance of past despotic regimes, had remained denied the blessing of literacy, confined as they had been within their homes and households, benefited from the suitable situations brought about by the revolution and with great revolutionary enthusiasm are furthering their knowledge in the literacy courses they have joined.

In order to serve the masses in greater degree and in expanding means of education and training, the party and the government of the DRA constantly endeavors to open new schools and other education centers in order that the country's women and young girls can gain literacy and knowledge alongside their brothers and become individuals of knowledge and know-how in the service of their country, their people and their revolution. Today, thanks to the Sawr Revolution and the attention of our revolutionary party and government, hundreds of young girls from various parts of the country are studying in various colleges of Kabul University, all their needs being furnished by our revolutionary government. The opening of the new women's dormitory of Kabul University in honor of the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA, capable of accommodating 600 students and equipped with most conveniences of a modern building for the young girls of our country and is proof enough that the children of the toilers of Afghanistan, while they are fully aware of this positive action of their revolutionary party and government, also feel sincerely their readiness and support for the realization of all programs of the party and the government.

5854

CSO: 4665/25

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

BOMBING KILLS CIVILIANS--Islamabad, Pakistan--More than 60 civilians, including 30 small children, were killed in a recent Soviet bombing of two Afghanistan villages, two refugees from the country said last week. The refugees said the bombing was carried out Jan. 11 by six Soviet MiG fighter aircraft and two helicopters on the two Wardak province villages located 75 kilometers (45 miles) southwest of Kabul. Speaking at a news conference in the northwest Pakistan city of Peshawar, Muslim Yara, a doctor, and Wahidullah Najmi, a civil engineer said the 30 children who died had been studying in one of the mosques. The area of the bombings, the refugees said, is an insurgent stronghold, and has been bombed repeatedly, in order to obliterate the Mujahideen, who are fighting against the Soviets and Karmal regime troops. Some 34 villages out of the 37 located in the valley have been bombed on 80 occasions, they said, adding that the raids had killed 813 people in the last five years. An estimated three million refugees have fled into Pakistan in the wake of 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Feb 85 p 5]

AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION--Kabul, (BIA)--Mechanisation of agriculture in Afghanistan where 85 percent of the population is engaged with agriculture has been taken up as a priority task by the government of the DRA. After the April Revolution of 1978 five mechanised agricultural stations were established in Kabul, Balkh, Herat, Jauzjan and Baghlan provinces of the DRA. In addition to the above main stations four units of agricultural mechanisation were also opened in Samangan, Ghazni, Kunduz and Farah provinces. The said stations and units provide agricultural machinery such as tractors, harvester combines, etc., to the peasants at low rents. The area under mechanized agriculture rose from 9200 hectares in 1980 to about 56,000 hectares in 1984. On the basis of a protocol signed recently between Afghan and the Soviet concerned authorities, efforts are being made for extending the capacity of the existing mechanised agricultural stations. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 13 Feb 85 p 1]

THOUSANDS IN LITERARY COURSES--Kabul, (BIA)--Campaign against illiteracy as one of the prime duties of the revolutionary government of the DRA is in full swing all over the country. About 14,000 persons including housewives are enrolled in 700 literacy courses in Balkh province alone. This was stated by a spokesman of the literacy department of the province. They are being taught by about 500 volunteer teachers. One hundred and twenty persons after completing the courses received the certificates. In addition, over 152 courses were

established in the same province during the current Afghan year (begun March 20, 1984) in which more than 4,000 persons are engaged. Likewise, 390 literacy courses have been set up in Baghlan province, north of the country in which about 8000 persons are enrolled and are being taught by more than 200 voluntary teachers. [Text] [Kabul THE KABUL TIMES in English 13 Feb 85 p 4]

CSO: 4600/307-8

BANGLADESH

YOUTH RALLY PROTESTS U.S. SENATOR'S STATEMENTS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 28 Jan '85 pp 1, 8

[Text] A youth rally was held yesterday in front of the stadium gate under the auspices of the Bangladesh National Preparatory National Preparatory Committee for Twelfth World Youth Festival to be held this year in Moscow.

The committee comprises representatives of different cultural organisations, youth fronts of different political parties and component organisations of the Student Action Committee (Chhatra Sangram Parishad).

The committee has been vested with the responsibility of selecting the members of a youth delegation of Bangladesh which will attend the festival in Moscow.

The youth rally organised yesterday by the committee was attended by the workers and leaders of Bangladesh Jubo Union (youth front of CPB), Awami Jubo League), Ganatantrik Jubo Andolan (youth front of Workers' Party), Jubo Samity (youth front of Muzaffor NAP), Jatiya Jubo League, Bangladesh Chhatra Union (student front of CPB), Bangladesh Chhatra League (Mannan-Nanak), Jatiya Chhatra League, Chhatra Samity, Chhatra League (Shirin-Mushtaq), Chhatra League (Binu-Ismail), Biplobi Chhatra (Maitri-Biplobi Chhatra Union [word illegible], Kendriya Khelaghar, Kachi Kanchar Mela, Mahila Parishad, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Bangladesh Charu Shilpa Sangsad and Individual Youths.

The rally was presided over by Bangladesh Jubo Union president Abul Kashem while a declaration was read out by poet Mohammad Rafiq.

The declaration condemned 'war preparation and arms race' by 'imperialism' and vowed to defeat the so-called imperialist forces.

The declaration also criticized U.S. Senator Larry Pressler's remarks on 'internal affairs of Bangladesh' and protested against what it called imperialist pressure on Bangladesh.

The rally was followed by a procession which paraded the city thoroughfares and ended at National Press Club.

CSO: 4600/1330

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN SECRETARY SPEAKS AT MALE REGIONAL MEET

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Male (Maldives), Feb 6--Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury now attending the third Secretary-level Standing Committee meeting of the SARC here, called for consolidating the gains so far accomplished for forging a structured regional co-operation in South Asia, reports ENA.

Participating in the three-day deliberations, the Foreign Secretary said this would enable the countries of the region to strengthen and reinforce the activities already agreed upon as well as to embark on new areas of co-operation.

The Foreign Secretary, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the SARC Standing Committee, told the meeting that it was just a year and a half the efforts for co-operation had moved from the critical stage of preparatory build up to the phase of actual implementation of co-operative programmes through the launching of the integrated programme of action.

The Foreign Secretaries of seven South Asian nations--Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives--are attending the three-day meeting of the standing committee of the SARC.

Referring to the forthcoming summit of the SARC countries, the Foreign Secretary said Bangladesh has already started taking a definite course of action to make it a complete success.

It has been decided earlier that the forthcoming summit of the SARC countries will be held at Dhaka some time during last quarter of this year.

He urged the member countries to participate in all the SARC programmes so that the idea might be carried forward to its desired goal. In this connection, he said the national governments should give priority consideration on allocation of adequate budget for implementation of the SARC programme.

Pointing to global economic situation, the Foreign Secretary said it does not show any sign of improvement causing great anxiety in the developing countries. He further stated that erosion in multilateralism has aggravated and there was also a threat of withdrawal by important members from international organisations. "This is a very disquieting development and was worrying the South Asian countries," he added.

CSO: 4600/1348

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT PRESS NOTE ON UPAZILLA ADMINISTRATION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Feb 85 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Government has decided to make some modifications in the upazila administration which will remain operative till elected Chairmen of Upazila Parishads assume charge of their offices, reports BSS.

A Press Note issued by the Government in Dhaka on Tuesday said the decision was taken in view of the delay in holding election to the offices of the Chairmen of Upazila Parishads and after due consideration of the representations of agricultural engineering and medical officers.

Following are the modifications:

(a) orders issued for the deputation of the officials dealing with transferred subjects to the Upazila Parishad will stand cancelled. Their services will continue to be deemed to have been placed at the disposal of the respective Upazila Parishad. The functional heads who are drawing and disbursing officers will also continue to draw their pay allowance and contingency expenditures from the treasury as before by submission of bills to the Upazila Accounts Officers.

(b) Respective departmental heads of offices will initiate ACRs of and grant casual leave to the functional heads dealing with transferred subjects. The officers will, however, proceed on leave after furnishing a copy of the order of approval of leave to the UNO as has already been decided in the case of the doctors.

(c) The functional heads will prepare their T.A. bills on the basis of tour programme drawn by them earlier which will be passed for payment according to the rules.

The Press Note said the Government has already issued orders granting benefit of time scales of pay under which all members of all the cadre services have been allowed higher scales of pay on uniform basis without actually being promoted subject to satisfactory record of service, quota restriction and completion of certain specified years of service. All officers who had become eligible for higher time scale of pay before issue of orders imposing

quota restriction will, however, be allowed such time scale without any quota restriction. Besides of higher time scale of pay has also been allowed to non cadre officers and also the officers of autonomous bodies on reaching the maximum of their scale without any quota restriction. Benefit of time scale of pay has also been extended to the non-gazetted staff of Government and similar staff of autonomous bodies.

The report of National Pay Commission 1984 is now under active consideration of the Government. The Government would take into consideration any anomaly created by the scale while fixing the pay of the officials in the new scales of pay as may be introduced.

The Press Note pointed out that the President had already constituted a Council Committee headed by the DCMLA and CNS to examine and make recommendation on other issues raised. The committee has already commenced its deliberation.

In view of actions already taken, the Government hopes that the responsible officers will not resort to any action which will cause inconvenience and sufferings to the people, Press Note said.

CSO: 4600/1346

BANGLADESH

POLITICAL PARTIES ANNOUNCE PARTICIPATION IN POLLS

JSD (R-S)

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr A.S.M. Abdur Rab, General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal JSD (R-S) on Wednesday called upon all the democratic, patriotic and left forces to forge a national unity to expedite the process of transition to democracy in the country. He also declared that his party would participate in the April 6 parliamentary polls.

Addressing a public meeting at Baitul Mukarram Square, for the first time in three years, the JSD leader reiterated his party's demand for 500 seats in the Parliament with representatives from all professional groups. He claimed that through the establishment of what he called "administrative democracy" country's multitude of problems could be solved.

Presided over by Mohammed Shahjahan, President of the party, the meeting was addressed among others by Mr Rabiul Alam. Organising Secretary Mr Mukhtar Ahmed, Mr Abdur Noor Members of Central Committee and the Nur-e-Alam Jiku, Joint Secretary General of the JSD. Mr Rabiul Alam read out the announcement which consisted of the several demands and programmes. The announcement demanded a sovereign parliament with 500 members.

The JSD leader A.S.M. Abdur Rab said that people never accepted the rule of Martial Law in the country and always fought against it. He said only election could replace Martial Law rule with democracy, therefore, "we all should participate in the polls and desist from prolonging Martial Law," he said.

"The perpetuation of Martial Law would only plunge the country and nation into crisis."

The JSD leader said that his party was against further shifting of the date for polls on the plea of 'movement for realisation of five-point demands,' "Postponement of the polls will help perpetuate Martial Law," he said.

The JSD leader also demanded the announcement of fresh date of Upazila election immediately to pave the way for the restoration of 'administrative democracy' in the country.

Mr Rab criticised the SKOP and the 15-party alliance and the 7-party combine for calling 48-hour hartal for the realisation of five-point and demands of employees and workers. He said the politics of hartal was not acceptable to the people especially to those who earned their bread every day.

In this context the JSD leader, Mr Rab alleged that both the leaders of two separate alliances Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed had in fact launched the five-point movement in order to prolong the Martial Law. He said that it was a conspiracy against the will of the people because the alliances were trying to keep the people out of polling booths. He warned the alliances leaders not to embark upon such a perilous path.

Other Parties, Groups

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] A number of political parties and organisations on Wednesday hailed the steps taken by President H.M. Ershad in announcing the date of parliamentary elections, dissolution of the cabinet, restoration of fundamental rights and squeezing Martial Law Administration and expressed their decision to take part in April 6 polls.

They said that the announcements had created necessary atmosphere congenial for holding free and fair elections.

BML

In a joint statement Alhaj T. Ali, M.A. Matin and Alhaj Kazi Abdul Kader, Chairman, Secretary General and member respectively of Bangladesh Muslim League, said these measures were the manifestaion of sincerity of President Ershad for transition to democracy. These marked the fulfillment of the pledge made by the President in his address to the nation on December 15, they said.

They expressed the hope that President Ersad would fulfill his commitment for a free and fair election in the country.

Hindi Oikkya Front

Convener of the Hindu Oikkya Front Mr Manindra Nath Sarkar in a statement said that intention of the government for peaceful transition to democracy had been reflected through the announcements of the government on Tuesday. He said that remaining demands of the opposition could be achieved through the elected parliament.

Jatiya Ulema

President of Bangladesh Jatiya Ulema Front Maulana Mohammad Habibullah in a statement on Wednesday hailed the steps taken by the government in holding Jatiya Sangsad elections on April 6 in a peaceful atmosphere. He said that the Presidium of the Front held an emergency meeting on Wednesday and elected him as the Chairman of a 7-member parliamentary board.

Labour Party

President of Bangladesh Labour Party Maulana Abdul Matin in a statement said that his party had taken decision to take part in the election. He hoped that he would be able to make other partners of the three-party united front to take decision in favour of participating in the elections.

Republican Party

The national Republican Party on Wednesday announced that it would take part in the April 6 Jatiya Sangsad polls.

PJD

Chairman of Progotishil Jatiyatabadi Dal Sheikh Showkat Hossain Nilu in a statement on Wednesday said that his party believed that all political parties believing in the idea of late President Ziaur Rahman would unitedly face the elections. He said that his party also demanded Presidential elections after one month of the election to parliament.

Three leaders of Nutan Bangla Sechhasebok Sanghati in a joint statement said the announcement of the date of election had proved that the present government was determined to run the country's affairs in accordance with the principles of democracy.

They pointed out that if the opposition misconstrued these measures as weakness of President Ershad then it could be presumed that they were not participating in the election on the apprehension of being rejected by the people.

The joint statement was issued by Khandaker Mahtabuddin, Convener of Sanghati and Syed Abul Hussain Farhad, Major (Retd) Mujaheruddin Tipu and Alhaj Moazzem Hussain, all joint Conveners.

Bank Employees

Hailing President Ershad's measures the General Secretary of Swadhin Banks Employees Federation, Mr Shamsul Huda Mamur, said the way the President had implemented his pledge was rare in history.

In a statement, Mr Huda called upon all concerned to participate in the election to expedite the restoration of democracy in the country.

He appealed to the President to reinstate the sacked bank employees to overrun the problems in the banking sector. He also called for ending "harassment" at Krishi Bank.

JSSD

Jana Sechcha Sevak Dal on Wednesday brought out a procession in the city streets in support of the announcement of parliamentary polls schedule.

restoration of fundamental rights, expansion of writ jurisdiction of Supreme Court and withdrawal of special Martial Law tribunals by President Ershad.

The procession which began from the dal's office at Dhanmondi was dispersed at Jatiya Press Club after parading Science Laboratory, Shahbagh and Suhrawardy Uddayan. The processionists led by Munshi Abdul Latif and Mr Alimam chanted various slogans in support of the programmes and policy of President Ershad for transition to democracy.

Muslim League-Siddiqui

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Rajshahi, Jan 17--Bangladesh Muslim League (Siddiky group) today announced its decision to take part in the parliamentary elections scheduled for April 6.

Mr Justice B.A. Siddiky, chairman of the party, told a hurriedly called press conference here tonight that the decision was taken as the party's two demands--relaxation of Martial Law and dissolution of Janadal cabinet--were accepted by the Government.

He said the people were eagerly looking for the elections as they wanted to give their verdict for the restoration of democracy. The people wanted to live in peace and election was the only means to this, he asserted.

Mr Siddiky expressed the optimism that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Awami League would participate in the elections. "The quicker the elections the quicker the exit of Martial Law," the Muslim League chief told a questioner.

"We want to reconstruct the country by not doing the politics of destruction," Mr Siddiky said and hoped the elections would be free and fair and then his party would win in many of the parliamentary seats as the wind was in favour of Muslim League.

He said if voted to power his party would create four provinces in the country, each to be governed by a Lieutenant Governor. He gave no further details.

Oikya Front

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The 18-party Jatiya Oikya Front headed by former President Khandkar Mushtaque Ahmed will take part in the ensuing polls.

"We are inclined to join the national polls if it is held," said a front leader after conclusion of the front's 2-day meeting last night at the residence of its chairman.

While reviewing latest political developments the meeting was believed to have felt that holding of national polls would help solve the mounting problem of the nation.

'Taking part in the election will be in keeping with our tradition and consistent demand for it' said the front leader.

He said details of the decision of the meeting will be announced today.

JSD

Meanwhile, the JSD (Shahjahan-Rab) has formed a seven-member parliamentary board comprising party President Mohammad Shahjahan and General Secretary A.S.M. Abdul Rab to initiate the process of selecting party nominees for the ensuing parliamentary elections.

The central executive committee of the JSC, which met at the party office yesterday, instructed the district committees of the party to send to the board by February seven the list of those seeking party nominations from the parliamentary constituencies within the district.

The meeting also formed a 15-member committee for conducting election affairs. It also decided to form a national election advisory committee consisting of renowned personalities in various fields.

The Executive Committee decided to issue coupons of taka 1,5,10,20,50,100, and 500 for collecting subscriptions from members of the public for the election fund' of the party. Donations and grants will also be received.

ML (T.Ali)

Bangladesh Muslim League (T. Ali) has announced the formation of a six-member Parliamentary Board with party chief Al Haj T. Ali as chairman.

Other members of the board were Kazi Abdul Kader, Shamsul Huda, and M.A. Matin, Mr Jamir Ali and Advocate Nurul Haq Majumdar have been included in the party as secretaries.

Chairman of the presidium of BML Al Haj Tofazzal Ali constituted the Parliamentary Board as per the decision of the Central Working Committee of the party taken on December 25 last. The BML chief has simultaneously announced the formation of an 11-member Appellate Parliamentary Board.

The BML in a press release have invited applications for nominations for the parliamentary polls. The application should reach the residence of party chairman of 50/A, New Eskaton (Kasbah House) by February 7.

United People's Party-Zafar

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] A two-day meeting of the national committee of the United People's Party (Zafar) concluded on Friday called upon all the democratic forces to unitedly take correct and timely decision regarding poll which would reflect the desire of the people.

Presided over by the Chairman of the Party Kazi Zafar Ahmed, the meeting observed that the people wanted end of Martial Law and transfer of power to a representative government immediately.

The meeting said that election and movement were complementary. As such, the movement could never be stopped before or after the election. Hence as the "necessity of movement cannot be denied, participation in poll as a part of the movement cannot be ignored either," the meeting said.

The meeting also said that the people had a tradition to oust autocracy both by movement as well as through ballot.

Muslim League-T. Ali

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 28 Jan 85 pp 1, 8.

[Text] Mymensingh, Jan 27--Bangladesh Muslim League (T. Ali) leader Kazi Abdul Kader addressing a public meeting at Mymensingh Town Hall maidan today said that his party's aim is to establish rights of the people by taking part in the ensuing election. He said, there is no other alternative of election for transition to democracy.

Kazi Kader reiterated his party's demand for introducing Islamic constitution for the country and called upon the people to rally round his party.

Presided over by Mir Sirajul Huq, the meeting was addressed among others, by Mr M.A. Matin, secretary general of the party and Syeda Gulrukh Mahal Aziz Howlader.

M.A. Matin in his speech bitterly criticised the present role of the 15-party and 7-party alliances and said they are raising slogans on the streets but do not have the courage to go to polls. He also expressed his surprise why opposition parties are opposing election while the Government is ready to hold election. He said, his party has taken decision to take part in the election for the sake of peaceful transition to democratic system.

CSO: 4600/1330

BANGLADESH

BRITISH TRADE TEAM LEADER DISCUSSES TRADE WITH DHAKA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 31 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr J.S. Hewitt, leader of the visiting British trade delegation on Wednesday said that his country was keen to promote bilateral trade relation with Bangladesh.

Exchanging views on development of trade relation between Bangladesh and UK with members of Dhaka Metropolitan Chambers of Commerce and Industries, the leader of the British trade mission said that the visit of the delegation was to explore areas of cooperation in trade between the two countries.

Earlier, President of the Dhaka Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mr M.R. Siddiqui said that the total volume of trade between Bangladesh and United Kingdom which was 151 million dollars in 1978-79 decreased to 138 million dollars in 1983-84 showing a decline of 8.6 percent.

He said Bangladesh entrepreneurs have established their credibility for participation in joint ventures within the country and abroad. "The growth of private sector has been quite phenomenal in the recent years," he said.

Mr Hewitt said that UK was interested in the export of finished goods, exchange of technologies and joint ventures. In this context he emphasised on stable industrial policy for favourable investment climate in Bangladesh.

Mr Siddiqui said that many entrepreneurs would be interested in gas-based joint venture industries, textile and jute machinery manufacturing, fish processing, sponge iron complex and leather processing. "We hope the British entrepreneurs would show positive interest in the development plan and programme of Bangladesh," he said.

Mr Hewitt said that two prerequisites for investment in Bangladesh were stable industrial policy and political stability along with the economic stability. There were a good number of members of British South Asian Trade Association were looking for partners in Bangladesh.

He said that he was very happy that there were no bottlenecks in remitting financial dividends abroad.

Later the visiting British trade delegation led by Mr Hewitt called on the DCMLA and Minister for Industries, Commerce, Jute and Textiles, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmood at his office at CMLA's Secretariat.

They discussed the possibilities of increasing economic cooperation between the two Commonwealth countries. Some areas of effective bilateral trade relations also figured in the discussion. The delegation appreciated the stability of industrial policy of Bangladesh and expressed keenness in having joint ventures on industrial projects in Bangladesh. The DCMLA assured all cooperations and facilities for joint ventures and identified potential areas of collaborations.

Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud agreed to the British trade team's proposal for a free economic zone in Bangladesh and urged them to create suitable markets for Bangladesh products in their countries. The DCMLA apprised the delegation of the policy of the present government of Bangladesh to increase export trade and balance of trade relations with developed countries including the UK. British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mr T.G. Streeton was also present during the discussion.

CSO: 4600/1345

BANGLADESH

MUSLIM LEAGUE LEADER ADVOCATES 'MUSLIM NATIONALISM'

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Satkhira, Feb 7--Muslim League (Siddiky) Chief Justice B.A. Siddiky has called for establishment of "Muslim nationalism" to foil what he said a conspiracy to divide the nation and undo the sovereignty and independence of the country.

Addressing a public meeting here this afternoon Justice Siddiky said the nine crore Muslims of the country would unitedly protest and uphold the independence of the country and their Islamic values and culture even at the cost of their life. Any conspiracy to cow down the Muslims would not succeed since they would bow down to none but Almighty Allah.

The Muslim League President said the country was now passing through a critical situation and danger was looming large on those committed to Islam. He called for rallying round the banner of Muslim League to tide over a situation like this.

Organised by Satkhira District Muslim League and chaired by its President Advocate Md Ali, the meeting was addressed, among others, by central leaders of the party Mr Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Razia Faiz and Humayyun Hossain Khan.

In his address, Mr Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury said Muslim League wanted a free and fair election. The party would resist holding of an unfair poll as in 1973 and 79.

Referring to Awami League and BNP, he said the people tested them and were utterly disappointed at what they did while in power. They were now conspiring together to stage a comeback to power, he warned the people.

CSO: 4600/1349

BANGLADESH

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR 1985 FACES CUTS

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 8 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hossain Khasru]

[Text] The much-trumpeted "pruning and rationalisation exercise" of the establishment to keep the public sector development programme within manageable limits has not succeeded in changing the development scenario anyway for the better. Investment cutback has now been proposed for the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the current fiscal 1985.

A ten-percent cut in original Taka 3896-crore-ADP for 1984-85 covering 800 projects has now been decided in view of funding constraints originating from the shortfall in domestic resources in particular, according to a report. And this investment cutback will thus bring the size of the revised ADP for fiscal 1985 down to Taka 3506 crore, reflecting only an increase of Taka 73.42 crore over the revised ADP of Taka 3452.58 crore in 1983-84. In real terms, public sector development programme in fiscal 1985 will be lower than that of fiscal 1984 even on the basis of conservative, national price increase of 12 percent for the current fiscal year.

The shrunken ADP size has its logical adverse impact on the country's overall economic performance. Whereas the objective reality arising out of the fact that the private sector has historically been dependent on the support of the public sector in terms of infrastructural and other strategic arrangements for growth dictates expanding public development activities, the actual experience over the Second Five Year Plan (1980-85) has been a thinner level of development activities in the public sector.

The size and composition of government development spending is indeed extremely important in determining the rate of economic growth. While the fast-expanding non-development, i.e., current expenditures of the government have continued to claim the priority over the available resources, the development projects in the public sector has borne the brunt of financial constraints, particularly taka shortage problems. Project implementation has suffered a serious setback in the process, notwithstanding the fact that an improved performance in implementing the ADP provides the important means of improving the country's economic prospects in the medium term.

Shortage of taka (local currency) problem has already caused the disbursement of project assistance to be slowed down; because such disbursement to a large extent depends on the availability of matching taka resources. The country's outstanding pipeline of project aid commitments stands now at about 40 billion US dollars. And if it becomes evident as is now that the outstanding pipeline of aid commitments is unlikely to be utilized in the near future, the justification for increasing project aid commitments is certainly weakened severely.

Meanwhile, total public sector development expenditure with a ten percent cut in current year's ADP taken into consideration will be around Taka 14,936.64 crore at current prices during the Second Five Year Plan (SFYP) as against the projected level of such expenditure in the plan document (finalised in May 1983) at Taka 16,060 crore at current prices. This indicates a shortfall of around Taka 1125 crore. The actual shortage may be even higher, if the fact that the actual rates of inflation in fiscal 1984 and fiscal 1985 would be higher than what was projected in May 1983 to make the estimate about the level of public development spending at current prices for the whole plan period is taken into account.

Aid Dependence

In the financing pattern of public sector development programme, the share of domestic resources has not recorded any increase in the overall available resources for funding the same. In absolute terms, the amount of domestic resources had, on the other hand, shown a decline. As against Taka 836 crore mobilised from Domestic resources for Taka 2369-crore-ADP in 1980-81, domestic resources, according to the budgetary estimates, are to generate Taka 796 crore for the original ADP of Taka 3896 crore for 1984-85. This would reflect a greater reliance on foreign assistance for funding the public development spending under the SFYP. According to a rough estimate, the overall share of foreign assistance in such spending will be over 75 percent.

A rough economic classification of the development expenditures of the government over the SFIP period shows that non-investment expenditures in the form of wages and salaries, contingent and other expenditures, interest and amortization, subsidy, land purchase etc would be about 35 percent of total spending. Fixed investment in the form of construction, land improvement and orchard development, machinery and equipment, breeding stock etc. would account for the rest 65 percent.

Expectation Belied

Apropos the ADP for fiscal 1985, the latest move to revise the allocation downward under it by at least 10 percent of the original size because of what a recent newspaper report suggested, local currency financing constraints has belied the expectation of the Finance Adviser in his last budget speech about the larger availability of the same in the current fiscal year compared to earlier years and thus for "automatic faster implementation."

The original ADP for fiscal 1985 has a taka component of 2049 crores and a project aid disbursement level of Taka 1847 crores. Almost 30 percent of estimated project aid disbursements in fiscal 1985 would, as the Finance Minister noted earlier, be in the shape of reimbursable local currency expenditure which would "ensure larger availability of local currency resources." Yet then, local currency resource constraints have lingered on, necessitating now a ten percent downward adjustment in the original ADP size at the close of seven months of the current fiscal year.

CSO: 4600/1350

BANGLADESH

AWAMI LEAGUE WORKING COMMITTEE REITERATES DEMANDS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 31 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh Awami League on Wednesday unequivocally demanded national polls after acceptance of their conditions raised for holding a free and fair election in the country, an Awami League Press release said in Dhaka on Wednesday night, reports BSS.

The party demanded a clear-cut declaration on this point according to the latest polls schedule of April 6 next.

The party said that it would be constrained to come to the conclusion along with the people, that unless such declaration was made before the country, there could not be any free and fair election ultimately affecting the transfer of power.

The Awami League in its two-day working committee meeting on January 29 and 30 with party Chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed in the chair adopted the above mentioned political resolution, the Press release pointed out.

ENA adds: The meeting observed that closure of the offices of district or Sub-Zonal Martial Law Administrators and abolition of Special Martial Law tribunals and courts did not meet the main demand for ending Martial Law.

It also said the main spirit of the five-point demand is to end forever military rule, establishment of a sovereign parliament through free, fair and impartial election, transfer of power to elected representatives of the people and, above all, return of a democratic and stable atmosphere here in state and social systems.

The meeting alleged that the government is not sincere as in the past about April 6 election. "Rather it (Government) is afraid of transfer of power through fair and impartial election," it further said.

It said people are ready to resist any move to prolong Martial Law by postponing April 6 election or revival of Janadal rule under cover of Martial Law or holding of any other election or referendum.

The meeting observed that the Government has been maintaining silence and even ignoring some most important preconditions set by Awami League, 15-Party Alliance and other partners of the current movement for holding meaningful, free and impartial election.

The resolution listed the preconditions which call for effective neutrality of the President and administration at all levels in election and a guarantee that the President will not participate in campaign in favour or against any party, individual or candidate.

It said the recent activities of the government leave no doubt that April 6 election will be "farcical breaking all records."

CSO: 4600/1345

BANGLADESH

DISSIDENT JSL REJOINS AWAMI LEAGUE, MEETING HELD

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Feb 85 p 12

[Text] Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League formally rejoined Awami League on Sunday and expressed full confidence in the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

A conference was held at the Ramna Green on the day to announce the merger of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League with Awami League's labour front, Jatiya Sramik League.

In a goodwill message sent to the conference, Sheikh Hasina urged all who still remained victims of confusion to be again united and to join Awami League to establish the ideals of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and strengthen the movement against the Martial Law government. She said that Awami League would continue its struggle to achieve the political and economic emancipation of people in the country. She stressed the need for unity to continue the present movement for a permanent end to Martial Law.

Sheikh Hasina could not attend the conference held at Ramna Green as she was busy with the meeting of Awami League's Central Executive Committee.

The Awami League chief welcomed the leaders and workers of different trade unions and industrial federations who joined Awami League's labour front on the day and hoped that this would further encourage others to rejoin Awami League.

The conference was presided over by Haji Md Mohsin, President of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League. It was addressed among others by Mrs Johra Tajuddin, member of Awami League presidium, Mr Amir Hossain Amu, Mr Tofael Ahmed, Organising Secretary, Mr Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Mr Rahmatullah Chowdhury, President and advocate Nurul Islam Babu, Acting General Secretary of Jatiya Sramik League.

CSO: 4600/1354

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH, MALE SIGN AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh and Maldives yesterday signed an air services agreement under which the national airlines of the two countries will operate between Dhaka and Male, reports BSS.

Mr A.R. Yusuf, Minister for Information, Civil Aviation and Law, and Mr Fathulla Jameel, Foreign Minister of Maldives, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective government.

Later talking to newsmen, Mr Fathulla Jameel, who is in Dhaka to attend the 9th Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank, said that the two countries would come closer following the agreement.

He described it as a significant step for bringing the two peoples closer. He said his government was very keen to promote bilateral cooperation and the agreement would work a long way in this regard.

Reciprocating the same sentiment, Mr A.R. Yusuf said that both Bangladesh and Maldives being Muslim countries attached great importance to brotherhood. He said Bangladesh had been watching very carefully the development activities of Maldives during the recent past.

Mr Yusuf said the people of Bangladesh had the warmest feelings for the people of Maldives and the air services agreement would further consolidate the friendship.

He said Bangladesh would cooperate with Maldives in all arena of international affairs as brothers.

Mr Sayed Ahmed, Secretary-in-Charge, Ministry of Civil Aviation and other high officials of Civil Aviation and Foreign Ministry were present on the occasion.

CSO: 4600/1344

BANGLADESH

WRITER SCORES ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET IN DHAKA

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 8 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by Amin Chowdhury]

[Text] The Soviet embassy in Dhaka appears to have taken deliberate leave of diplomatic niceties by making wild allegations against the Bangladesh press for what it said anti-Soviet propaganda and against the activities of a private organisation which supports the cause of Afghan freedom fighters.

The Soviet protest note was reportedly handed to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry recently. Earlier the embassy in a press statement also recorded similar protests. According to reports, the Soviet embassy bluntly asked the Bangladesh government to put a stop to such activities.

It remains unexplained what prompted the Soviet embassy to register protest as neither the media in general nor the Bangladesh-Afghan Mujahideen Solidarity Committee, an organisation of private citizens, owe their existence to the government. Both are independent to carry out their policies which might even go against the government policy.

Pressurising the administration of the host country to take actions against those whose views are contrary to the interest of a particular country is certainly beyond the limits of fairplay in diplomacy. Whether the Soviets believe in fairplay in diplomacy or not is another question. It will be interesting to know the Soviet reaction if some other countries protest against the activities of some quarters in Bangladesh which go in favour of Soviet policy interests.

It may be recalled that newsmen had to walk out of the Soviet embassy in 1974 when a top Russian official was unnecessarily harsh with some of them and went to call 'HOLIDAY' as an enemy paper.

Diplomatically speaking such pressures, whether by the Soviets or by anybody else, amounts to interference in the internal affairs of the host country or more specifically on the civil liberties of the citizens of a country. The reaction in connection with the Soviet embassy's protest by Muslim League leader and former member of parliament Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury is not unfounded.

Mr Chowdhury in a statement said, "The Soviet embassy by brow-beating a military regime to further restrict liberties of its citizens is only attempting to impose its own variety of totalitarianism in Bangladesh."

The former MP is also right in saying that the Soviet Union is trying to damage the cause of liberal thinking in a society and has destroyed its own credibility as the champion of political movement in Third World countries.

Rebuff

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry has also politely rebuffed the Soviet embassy by saying that the press in the country is free and the administration has nothing to do with its views.

The ministry also pointed out to the Soviet embassy that the government is in no position to curb the Bangladesh-Afghan Mujaheddin Solidarity Council because of its being a private organisation.

The Soviet embassy had also made two other allegations. It says that the authorities are unnecessarily restricting visa permission to Soviet citizens willing to come to Bangladesh. It also charged that the United States embassy here is active in the anti-Soviet propaganda.

The Foreign Ministry has said that visa is granted strictly as per the regulation and there is no question of discrimination or unnecessary delay. The ministry has dismissed the other accusation saying that it has no knowledge of the United States embassy violating the Geneva Convention specifying diplomatic norms and behaviour.

The prompt reply of the Foreign Ministry should set at rest the controversy generated by the protest note of the Soviet embassy. But the moot point here is that a superpower claiming as the friend of a country does not have the right to ask a host government to infringe the fundamental rights of the citizens of the country.

CSO: 4600/1350

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

OMANESE ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS--The Ambassador designate of the Sultanate of Oman, Mr Abdullah Saeed Rashid Al-Buluchi presented his credentials to the President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt Gen H.M. Ershad at Bangabhaban on Wednesday morning reports BSS. Present his letter of credence, Mr Al-Buluchi expressed the hope that the existing fraternal ties and brotherly cooperation between Bangladesh and Oman would be further strengthened. Reciprocating the similar sentiments, President Ershad assured the new envoy of all possible help and cooperation in the smooth discharge of his duties during his tenure of office in Bangladesh. Earlier, the new Omani Ambassador was given a guard of honour by the President's guard regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 85 p 3]

FRG AGRICULTURAL AID--Dr Baron Von Marschall ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany on Monday presented a cheque of DM 5,074,430 equivalent to about Tk 4 crore to Col (Retd) S.A. Ansar Chairman of BADC, says a Press release. The amount was placed with BADC to reimburse the cost of import of 3500 tons of wheat seeds which was urgently procured from abroad for use this winter season. The Federal Republic of Germany is helping Bangladesh in improving the quality and quantity of local seed production particularly wheat under the bilateral Seed Development Project. With this and view FRG has so far assisted in procurement of 18790 tons of certified wheat seeds from abroad for distribution among the farmers. For this purpose DM 22.7 million (Tk 18.3 crore) was pledged under the German-Bangladesh Seed Development Project which has since been expanded and extended until 1988. Moreover the government of the Federal Republic of Germany has pledged a further sum of DM 14.8 million to meet up the future import requirement of wheat seeds. This assistance will go a long way in increasing production and helping the farmers with improved seeds. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jan 85 p 3]

SWISS AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS--The Ambassador designate of Switzerland, Mr Jean Cuendet presented his credentials to the President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt Gen H.M. Ershad at Bangabhaban on Wednesday reports BSS. Presenting his letter of credence, the new Swiss Ambassador expressed the hope that the existing friendly ties and cooperation between Bangladesh and Switzerland would be further strengthened in the coming days to the mutual benefits of the two peoples. Reciprocating similar sentiments, President Ershad assured the new envoy of all possible cooperation and assistance in the smooth discharge of his duties during his tenure of office in Bangladesh. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jan 85 p 3]

JANADAL COUNCIL MEMBERS--The adviser to the President and Treasurer of Janadal Mr M.A. Sattar and the President of Jana Mohila Dal a front organization of the party, Mrs Momota Wahab have been made members of the Supreme Council of Janadal, according to a party Press release, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Jan 85 p 14]

AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN--The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has decided to concurrently accredit Mr A.H.S. Ataul Karim, at present Permanent Representative of Bangladesh in Geneva, at Bangladesh Ambassador to Vatican, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jan 85 p 3]

ACCORD WITH ADB--A loan agreement between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Bangladesh was signed at the Bank's Headquarters in Manila on January 11, reports BSS. According to an official handout in Dhaka on Tuesday, under the agreement the bank will provide Bangladesh an amount of US dollars 103.8 million for the second natural gas development project, which on completion will benefit the country by ensuring an adequate supply of indigenous energy resources and help reduce dependency on imported fuel to a great extent. Mr K.F. Rahman, alternate Executive Director and Mr Fujioka, President ADB signed the agreement on behalf of the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank respectively. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jan 85 p 1]

CSO: 4600/1324

INDIA

GANDHI PROMISES ERADICATION OF SOCIAL EVILS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 17 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] SIDHI (Madhya Pradesh), Feb. 16--The Prime Minister today charged non-Congress (I) Governments in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal with non-performance and said the progress of the country could be ensured if the same party ruled at the Centre and in the States, reports PTI.

Addressing election meetings at Bijawar, Pawai, Satna and Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said his party believed in performance and not in offering alibis. The Prime Minister also addressed gatherings in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during his one-day tour.

Thanking the electorate for giving the Congress (I) a massive majority in the recent Lok Sabha poll, Mr Gandhi said that during the past few days, his Government had shown its determination to tackle various knotty problems facing the country.

He said his Government had got rid of the 20-year-old disease of defection in 20 days. The scourge of "aya Rams" and "gaya Rams" had been permanently made a 'gaya Ram'.

Describing the enactment of law to banish defection as the first step, Mr Gandhi said many more steps would be taken to cleanse politics of opportunism and restore old values which gave importance to principles, ideology and problems.

He said the next step would be to eradicate social evils like black-marketing, hoarding and generation and circulation of black money. Necessary legislation would be brought forward in this connexion, he added.

Mr Gandhi said only the Cong. (I) had the guts and determination to implement its policies and programmes while other parties made hollow promises.

He said the Janata Party had promised to enact such legislation in 1978 but even as the Janata leaders were talking about it, there was defection from their party.

Mr. Gandhi assured the people in his various meetings that he would try to fulfil the promises he had made to them. He was accompanied by the State Chief Minister, Mr Arjun Singh, and the MPCC(I) president, Mr Motilal Bora.

The Prime Minister announced that the Government would chalk out a programme for the welfare of women and the youth in the country. He said that unless women and young people were given adequate opportunity to develop their talents, the country could not make progress.

Mr Gandhi said that while nominating candidates for the Assembly elections, the party had taken care to give greater representation to women and youth. The Congress (I) was the only party with a programme for the welfare of the women, youth, kisans, labour, Harijans, Adivasis and backward classes, he added.

He said these programmes could be implemented effectively if the State Governments cooperated with the Centre. He described the Government at the Centre and in the State as two bulls pulling a cart effectively, and asked if the cart could be pulled effectively if a bull and a horse were tied to the yoke?

CSO: 4600/1372

INDIA

PRIME MINISTER HEADS NEW CENTRAL GANGA AUTHORITY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, February 16 (UNI)--THE Central government today announced the setting up of the Central Ganga Authority (CGA), headed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, following a two-year study on pollution control and misuse of the river as a result of municipal and industrial wastes.

A gazette notification, issued to this effect, also provides for the creation of a 17-member steering committee headed by Dr. T. N. Khoshoo, secretary in the department of environment, with the project director of the CGA as member-secretary.

The minister of state for environment Mr. Vir Sen told newsmen today that the survey of the Ganga basin by the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (CBPCWP) had revealed that the river, was severely polluted at various places.

The plan drawn up by the government on the basis of the Ganga pollution project will also involve the state governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, through which the river and its tributaries pass.

The project was estimated to cost Rs. 250 crores in the next five years. The estimate for the first year was Rs. 30 crores, and Rs. 10 crores had already been apportioned.

The entire financial burden will be borne by the Central government, but will be supplemented by certain programmes already launched by the state governments in this connection.

The CGA will comprise, apart from the Prime Minister, and Mr. Sen, of the finance minister, Mr. V. P. Singh and Mr. N. D. Tiwari, Mr. Chandrashekar Singh and Mr. Jyoti Basu, chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal respectively. The minister of state for science and technology, Mr. Shivraj Patil, the minister of state for planning, Mr. K. R. Narayan, Planning Commission deputy chairman, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and commission member (science), Mr. M. G. K. Menon are also on the committee.

The secretaries in the departments of non-conventional energy sources and environment would be permanent invitees.

INDIA

PRESIDENT WARNS AGAINST MISINTERPRETATION OF RELIGION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Feb 85 p 8

[Text]

Calcutta, Feb 13 (PTI)—President Giani Zail Singh today warned the nation against the wrong interpretation of different religions and fanaticism, which "is bringing bad names to their adherents".

The President who was inaugurating a seminar on the "role of religion in national integration" at the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture here, said that the voice of religion raised from this venue "can help in crushing the divisive forces in our country and in forging the spirit of unity amongst all its people".

Speaking for almost an hour, and at times departing from his written address Mr Zail Singh said that India was a vast country inhabited by followers of different religions, speaking different languages and practising different customs, but "we can feel one single soul thriving throughout this land from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Punjab to Assam".

"The reason is that for thousands of years, we have been united to each other by history, culture, hopes and aspirations", he added.

The seminar was organised jointly by the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture and the Asiatic Society.

The West Bengal Governor Umashankar Dikshit presided over the function.

Referring to Swami Vivekananda's observation that the basis of all religions is spiritual unity and the purpose is peace of mind, the President said that "India can only make progress through love and peace, and that unless the masses are assured of reasonable food, edu-

cation and facilities, no polity will be of any avail".

"Spiritual unity leads to the unity of soul and intellect which in turn, paves the way for national unity", he stressed.

The President was applauded by the elite gathering in the imposing Vivekananda Hall of the institute, when he said that the dedication, devotion and zeal with which Ramakrishna Mission was selflessly serving all mankind is a major contribution towards the national unity".

In a reference to development of science and technology, race among nations for economic development and fast changing living habits in society, the President said that in a situation like this "religion, which preaches love, sympathy, tolerance and universal brotherhood, is the only basis that can save the human society from break-up and purposelessness".

Even Communist propaganda against religion, the President said, had lost its sting, as the "force of religion is supreme".

While emphasising the imperative need for tolerance in religious practice, the President said that not only tolerance but respect towards other religions is equally important. "It is also essential that people belonging to one particular religion should have adequate knowledge of other faiths. This way the fellow feeling of the mankind develops", he added.

Mr Zail Singh said it was a great fortune for "our country to possess the treasure of the teachings of all the great religions of the world. "All that is needed is to make appropri-

ate use of it. If we preach and practise these teachings in the right spirit, our country can once again, like the olden days, become the spiritual leader of the world", he said.

In a moving reference to Bengal and Eastern India's "illuminating" contribution towards cultural and religious renaissance of the country through Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Deva and others, the President said amidst applause that let Bengal take the lead in reviving the moral, spiritual and eternal values of life.

CSO: 4600/1361

INDIA

MNF LEADER LALDENG MEETING WITH GANDHI REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, February 16 (PTI)--THE Mizo National Front (MNF) letader Mr. Laldenga, has submitted his peace proposals to the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and expressed the hope of finding a solution "soon" to the two-decade-long insurgency problem in Mizoran within the constitutional framework.

Mr. Laldenga met the Prime Minister here last night and discussed with him the points on which an agreement between the MNF and the Centre was yet to be reached.

Speaking to newsmen here today, Mr. Laldenga described the meeting, which lasted 30 minutes, as "cordial, understanding and friendly."

He said the Prime Minister had deputed the defence minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, to conduct the peace talks with the MNF on his behalf. Mr. Rao was also present at yesterday's meeting.

Mr. Laldenga said agreement had already been reached on 15 points during the current round of peace talks with the Centre represented by Mr. G. Parthasarathy, chairman of the policy planning committee of the external affairs ministry.

He said only four points remained unresolved and were placed before the Prime Minister seeking his guidance on them.

A note containing both the resolved and unresolved points were submitted to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi during the meeting, he said.

Unresolved Points

However, he declined to disclose the nature of the unresolved points.

He said he had told the Prime Minister "with your guidance we are going to solve it" (pending issues).

Mr. Laldenga said deputing Mr. Rao to conduct further talks was "a vyer good sign" indicating the Prime Minister's "keen desire ot solve the problem."

Though Mr. Laldenga declined to disclose the points of agreement and disagreement between the MNF and the Centre, the major points of differences were understood to be Mr. Laldenga's objection to the state governor having special powers on the maintenance of law and order, as in the case of Nagaland.

The Centre was understood to be not agreeable to the MNF demand for scrapping the autonomous district council for non-Mizo tribals.

The Centre was understood to have agreed to the major demand of the MNF to grant statehood to Mizoram, general amnesty to the MNF insurgents and imposition of President's rule after the signing of an agreement between the MNF and the Centre paving the way for fresh elections.

According to the agreement already reached, the administration in Mizoram would be carried out by the Lt.-governor aided by a council of advisors headed by an MNF nominee.

The Centre was also understood to have agreed to include the Mizo language in the eighth schedule of the constitution and continue with the present inner-line regulations to prevent unwanted inflow of non-Mizos to Mizoram. Similar inner-line regulations are in force in the tribal-dominated state of Nagaland and the Union territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

The MNF on its part was understood to have agreed to shelve for an indefinite period their demand for the creation of a greater Mizoram in which Mizo-inhabited areas of Manipur, Tripura and Assam were to be merged.

The last round of peace talks between the MNF and the Centre had failed in 1982 mainly on the insistence of the MNF leader to head an "interim government" in Mizoram prior to the holding of the assembly elections after granting full-fledged statehood to the Union territory.

But this was not acceptable to the then People's Conference chief minister, Brigadier Thengpunga Sailo, or to the Centre.

But the situation is quite different in Mizoram now with the declaration of the present Congress chief minister, Mr. Lal Thanhawla, that his government and the party was ready for any sacrifice to bring in peace to Mizoram.

Concern Over Arrests

UNI adds: Mr. Laldenga today expressed concern over the reported arrests of three MNF personnel in Saiha district recently.

The MNF chief said Brigadier-general Tony Tawnuia who is assisting him in the talks is leaving for Aizawl to find out the circumstances under which the MNF personnel were arrested.

Brig-Gen. Tawnuia, who is also the chief of staff of the Mizo National Army, has been asked to prevent any more arrests and harassment of MNF personnel by the authorities.

Mr. Laldenga has directed temporary cessation of collection of donations by the MNF with immediate effect.

Brig.-Gen. Tawnuia has been personally asked to supervise the temporary cessation.

CSO: 4600/1371

INDIA

KASHMIR LEADER ANNOUNCES PLANS TO CURB EXTREMISM

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Feb 85 p 9

[Text] JAMMU, Feb. 19--The Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided to curb the activities of all pro-Pakistan extremists and other subversive elements with a heavy hand and also to enact a special law providing for deterrent punishments to anti-national elements damaging public property.

Announcing this on the floor of State Assembly here today, the State Chief Minister, Mr. G. M. Shah, also introduced an official Bill entitled the "Jammu and Kashmir Public Property (Prevention of damage) Bill, 1985".

The Bill says that whoever commits mischief to damage any Central or State Government-owned building, installation or other property used in connection with the production, distribution or supply of water, power or energy, any oil installation and sewerage works, any mine or factory and any means of public transportation or telecommunication or any building installation or other property used in connection therewith shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to five years and with fine.

10 years jail: However, all those subversive elements who are accused of having damaged Government property by setting it on fire or by any explosive substance, according to this Bill would be punished with rigorous imprisonment of not less than one year but which might extend to 10 years and with fine.

Bail provision tougher: The Bill also provides special provisions regarding bail under which no person accused or convicted of an offence punishable for any sort of sabotage or subversive activity in custody could be released on bail or on his own bond unless prosecution has been given an opportunity to oppose the application for such release.

Speaker's appeal: When the House reassembled, the Speaker told the members that they should maintain the dignity and prestige of the Assembly instead of losing their temper. He also advised the agitated Opposition member, Mr. Bhim Singh, Panther Party leader, to meet him in his chamber whenever he had any grievance against his ruling.

Thereafter, discussions for the second day started on the motion of thanks on the Governor's address in which, members of the Congress (I) and the Opposition

National Conference (Farooq), Peoples' Conference and the Panther Party participated. Mr. P. H. Handoo of the NC (Farooq) demanded that the State Government place on the table of the House. The "white paper" released by it on the acts of omission and commission of the former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, so that the members could discuss it. Mr. Ghulam Hassan Arman, Congress (I) urged the Government to implement the Wazir commission report in which, among other things, the demand of the agitating people of the Kishtwar area was conceded to raise the status of Kishtwar tehsil to that of a full-fledged district.

Rajiv accused of double standards: Mr. Bhim Singh in his hard-hitting speech against both the Central and State Governments accused the Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for his "double standards", one for Jammu and Kashmir and another for the rest of the country. To substantiate his allegation, Mr. Bhim Singh said that the Prime Minister got passed an anti-defection Bill in Parliament which had now become an Act. But in Jammu and Kashmir, he said, the Congress (I) party was supporting "a defector government headed by Mr. Shah" even after all the members of the former United National Conference, who defected from the parent party to support the Shah Government, were declared as defectors by the former Speaker of the State Assembly, Mr. Wali Mohammad Ittoo, before he was removed from his chair in July last year.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid of the Opposition National Conference (Farooq), however, strongly pleaded that to bring about political stability, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi should intervene to "restore democracy in the State"

CSO: 5650/0076

INDIA

CONGRESS-I ELECTION MANIFESTO SUMMARIZED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Feb 85 pp 1, 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, February 19 (PTI)--THE Congress, in its election manifesto released here today, said it was imperative to vote it to power in the coming assembly elections to ensure all-round development of the states and to supplement the Centre's effort to provide a clean and efficient government.

Past experience showed that opposition rule at the Centre and some states had only led to instability, besides retarding the progress of the states in vital economic sectors, the manifesto said.

The 27-page manifesto, which is almost the same as the one the party issued for December Lok Sabha elections, said the ongress' "ambitious and comprehensive" programmes could "best be implemented by state governments committed in toto" to them.

"There is a clear link between the central and state governments in the formulation and implementation of development plans and programmes," the manifesto added.

The manifesto said the coming elections to the state assemblies provided to the people an opportunity to express their support to the implementation of Congress policies at the state level.

This was only a "logical follow-up" of the Lok Sabha mandate, it added.

In a severe indictment of the opposition governments in the states, the manifesto said they were excessively preoccupied with "peripheral and insignificant issues," and "barren anti-Congressism."

"The opposition governments had spent all their time in orchestrating anti-Centre slogans. They have brought disaster to state economies, at the same time blaming everything on the Centre in the hope of concealing their own mismanagement and turning the discontent of the people against the Central government and Congress leadership."

In an obvious reference to the Telugu Desam leader Mr. N. T. Rama Rao's campaign, the manifesto said some parties had raised "false and irrelevant"

slogans like "states' self respect" and played on the sentiments of the people for narrow political ends in order to "sweep their own failures under the carpet."

It said the whole country was poised for a quantum leap forward in every field after having installed a very stable government at the Centre and "every state has therefore to ensure its own development and progress along with the rest of India by partaking of the exciting adventure initiated by the Congress under the innovative and forward-looking leadership of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi."

Sweeping Plans

The manifesto was released by Mr. G. K. Moopanar, the AICC general secretary. Another general secretary, Mr. Srikanth Verma, explained its salient features.

Mr. B. Shankaranand and Mrs. Margaret Alva, Union ministers and Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, AICC general secretary, were among those present at the press conference.

The 34-point memorandum covers all important aspects of national life such as social and economic programme, minorities, streamlining of administration, employment, industrial sickness, family welfare, freedom of the press and independence of judiciary.

But for a brief introduction on the outcome of the recent Lok Sabha poll and highlighting of the "failures" of opposition governments in the states, the manifesto for the assembly elections is same as the one for the December general elections.

The following are the main points of the manifesto:

--Preservation of the unity of the country is the foremost task and Congress will strengthen secular forces by action against communal propaganda and ensure safety of life and property of all communities.

--Minorities: The Congress will continue to safeguard the rights of minorities, preserve the minority character of Aligarh Muslim University.

--Administration: The Congress will ensure prompt, courteous and efficient service of government and quasi government agencies and curb unhealthy politicisation of government services.

The Congress will provide a clean government and fight corruption in all fields. It will build a consensus on the financing of political parties and translate it into legislation.

The Congress will ensure for the working class steadily rising levels of real income based on rising productivity and emphasise labour participation in management.

Science and technology: the Congress will create new centres of excellence in carefully identified areas and around individual scientists or groups of outstanding merit use science and technology for accelerating rural development and welfare of weaker sections.

Environment: The Congress will optimise the use of natural resources and formulate a national conservation strategy.

Youth: The Congress attaches high priority to the intellectual, cultural and physical development of youth.

Legal reform: The Congress will enact a comprehensive legislation on the scheme for legal aid to the poor and take effective steps to reduce delays in disposal of cases.

Fiscal policy: The Congress will abolish the Compulsory Deposit Scheme for taxpayers, take vigorous measures against tax evasion.

Foreign policy: The Congress reiterates its firm resolve to pursue the policy of non-alignment, peace, co-operation and friendship.

Employment: The Congress will expand employment by: increasing agricultural productivity in areas with low yields, specially in the eastern region and expanding the rural employment programmes.

Agriculture: The Congress will increase agriculture production by 4 per cent and food production by 5 per cent per annum.

Industry: The Congress will emphasise: modernisation upgradation technology improvement in productivity and maximum utilisation of capacity.

Industrial sickness: The Congress will formulate a new policy to deal with the phenomenon of sickness in large chunks of textile, jute and engineering industries.

Energy: Maximise capacity utilisation in thermal power station and mining projects and establish a national power grid.

Women: The Congress will continue to fight the reprehensible practice of dowry and attendant social evils, initiate a programme to improve economic opportunities for women.

20-point programme: The Congress dedicates itself to a more comprehensive implementation of the 20-point programme.

The manifesto said most of the programmes fell within the competence of the state legislature and state government. Hence voting the party to power in the states was essential to see these programmes were implemented.

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS UK DESIRE TO IMPROVE TIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by K. N. Malik]

[Text] LONDON, February 15--THE British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said today he was keen on improving relations with India. He described the present state of Indo-British relations as "normal."

Sir Geoffrey was replying to a question on the reported strained relations on the issue of British attitude towards extremist Sikhs living in Britain.

The foreign office here maintains that Indo-British relations are not strained over the extremists issue. The authorities also maintain that the cancellation of the defence secretary, Mr. Michael Heseltine's and some other ministers' visits to India was because of the Lok Sabha elections and the impending assembly poll and not due to any strain in the relations. There was no freeze on defence and other ongoing deals between the two countries.

The Indian government's public stand on the issue has been identical. However, it is known that irked by the British stand, the government of India had advised various ministries to freeze major purchases from Britain, but in doing so advised them to refer any major purchase deal with Britain to the external affairs ministry and the Prime Minister's secretariat.

The result was consternation among British suppliers such as British Aerospace Companies or those dealing with naval, military, railway, telecommunications, power, and oil and natural gas equipment.

The British high commission in Delhi had to explain to the external affairs ministry and later to the Indian Prime Minister himself about the British concern on the freeze and its desire to put the relations back on the rails. There have also been frequent exchanges of views on the subject between Indian diplomats and the British foreign office.

Last week-end, the acting Indian high commissioner here held a detailed discussion with Sir William Harding, deputy under-secretary in the foreign office. Though both sides chose to remain silent, it is learnt that the whole gamut of Indo-British relations came in for review.

The companies such as Westland, which supply Seaking helicopters and are scheduled to supply Westland 30's to the ONGC are extremely worried. Westland's chairman, Lord Aldington, told a shareholders' meeting two days ago he was confident that the deal with India would go through as earlier envisaged. The company had proceeded with its production plans in accordance with Indian requirements.

It is, however, known that Westland had to resort to redundancies due to the Indian freeze order and had expressed fears that if the freeze order was not relaxed, more redundancies would follow.

PTI adds: The British government has lately shown signs of responding to India's concern and two Sikh militants, Jasbir Singh and Rupinder Singh Ankhi, have been denied entry into this country.

However, Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the self-styled Khalistan leader, continues his fulminations against India unhindered, although Scotland Yard officers have visited him once or twice recently.

CSO: 4600/1367

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF POLISH PRIME MINISTER

12 Feb Delhi Press Conference

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, February 12--POLAND has assured India that it will scrupulously investigate the involvement of a Polish official here in espionage activities.

The assurance was given at the highest level during a meeting between the visiting Polish Prime Minister, Ge. Jaruzelski, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday.

Gen. Jaruzelski, who had another meeting with Mr. Gandhi today, later told a press conference that conclusions could be drawn only after the results of the investigations were available.

He said he had told Mr. Gandhi that "we shall do our best to find out whether a Polish diplomat or an employee could have exceeded his functions."

The espionage issue dominated the hour-long press conference at which he answered questions on Indo-Polish relations which he described in most effusive terms. He said Mr. Gandhi had accepted the invitation to visit Poland. The dates will be fixed through mutual consultations.

Gen. Jaruzelski declined to divulge what Mr. Gandhi conveyed to him, saying he had not been authorised to do.

In response to another question on the espionage case, the Polish Prime minister said the question did not apply to any Polish diplomat. He did not, of course, say the same thing about any Polish official.

Asked whether his government would inform India about the outcome of the investigations, he said it was a bilateral matter and no public explanation was called for.

He said there was great convergence in the interest of Poland and India and Poland wished to see India strong. Both countries had stakes in peace, and therefore, "anything that would harm India would also harm us," he said.

The Polish Prime Minister told a correspondent that his question on espionage implied that a sentence should be passed before investigation. This was not done.

In reply to another question, Gen. Jaruzelski said anything of interest to Poland in India could be obtained legally. Such exchanges took place within the framework of friendly relations between India and Poland. It was in the case of countries with whom relations were ambiguous that Poland needed to resort to "other methods", he said.

Gen. Jaruzelski said the subject (espionage) was raised by Mr. Gandhi "only because it has been recounted to a considerable extent in the Indian press."

The Polish Prime Minister put an end to further question on this subject saying that he was sorry he could not satisfy the need for sensationalism.

On bilateral relations, Gen. Jaruzelski said both Poland and India envisaged a big increase in trade and industrial cooperation.

Following the shift in Poland's trade relations from Western countries, its economic ties with countries such as India had acquired even greater importance.

The Polish Prime Minister was asked about the government's relations with the Solidarity movement in his country. He replied curtly that "Solidarity" did not exist and went on to say that 60 to 80 per cent of Solidarity members had joined independent self-covering trade unions.

He had a dig at the Solidarity leaders who violated the Gandhian principles of running a trade union movement and conducting strikes.

Mahatma Gandhi, the Polish Prime Minister said, had clearly enunciated in 1918 that the striking workers would not resort to violence, would earn their living honestly during the strike period and would not accept gifts and assistance.

The Solidarity movement, on the other hand, had exposed Poland to a "catastrophic situation and lethal threat", the Polish Prime Minister said.

Responding to a question on the impact of economic blockade of Poland by the Western countries, he said initially it not only hit the government but also the people and thus it was not a humanitarian act.

However, the people of Poland had never learned to surrender in the face of such difficulties. The Polish Prime Minister said Poland was also being helped by the Soviet Union and other sympathetic countries.

Trade Ties

PTI adds: The controversy over the reported involvement of a Polish diplomat in the espionage case notwithstanding, the two nations have decided to raise

the level of trade and enter into co-production in industry. An agreement for exchange of TV and radio programmes and documentaries was signed today.

The two countries have reaffirmed the desire to cement their bonds of friendship, diversify trade and promote economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

The Polish Prime Minister said his visit to India and the fruitful talks he had with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had further fortified the bonds of friendship between the two countries and opened new vistas of economic, scientific and technical cooperation and co-production in industry.

Gen. Jaruzelski said the cooperation between the two countries so far had been very successful and was reflected in the trade turnover which had shown an increase of 20 per cent over the last one year and was proposed to be enhanced by 30 percent in the next year.

How was it that one of his country's diplomat was involved in espionage in the context of his opening statement that Poland valued bonds of friendship with India, a correspondent asked.

The Polish Prime Minister pointed out that the correspondent's question assumed it was a diplomat. Sentences were not passed before investigation and secondly the question does not apply to a Polish diplomat.

G. K. Reddy Report

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 12--The Polish Prime Minister, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, said today that his Government was investigating whether any Polish diplomat or employee of its trade mission was involved in the espionage case.

Addressing a crowded press conference, he refused to disclose the nature or details of his discussion with the Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, on the subject, saying that he was not authorised to say anything about it.

But in reply to a series of questions by Indian and foreign correspondents, he assured that "we will do our very best to investigate the matter very closely" before drawing the necessary conclusion whether any Polish representative had "exceeded his functions". The results of this inquiry will be communicated to the Government of India, but he was not required to offer any public explanation for it.

Cordial Relations

General Jaruzelski maintained that Indo-Polish relations were so close and cordial that his Government could obtain any political or economic information

legally without resorting to "other methods" as some countries do by indulging in espionage. He said that anything done unauthorisedly by any representative of his country to harm India would also harm Poland since it would impair their friendly relations.

The Polish Prime Minister spoke at length about the internal situation in his country, the failure of Western efforts to isolate it, the liberalisation of Poland, the political and economic dispensation, its commitment to disarmament and peace and continued friendship with the Soviet Union. But the main focus of the questions asked was on the spy episode and Poland's involvement in it.

Embarrassment

This is perhaps the first time ever that a head of Government on a State visit had been faced with such an embarrassment, especially when the Prime Minister of the host country himself chose to take it up with him. The very disclosure by an official spokesman yesterday that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had taken up the matter with General Jaruzelski set the tone for the persistent questions on the subject at today's press conference.

The fact that Soviet, Polish and East German diplomats were involved in it, besides the French deputy military attache, gave the impression that the Soviet bloc was operating a vast espionage ring in India like the bigger Western powers with an equally deep involvement. The Government of India resorted to the unprecedented practice of announcing that the Prime Minister had taken up the matter with General Jaruzelski, after refraining all these days from making even a bare disclosure of the expulsion of the Soviet, Polish or East German diplomats.

Forewarned

The Polish Prime Minister was forewarned by the Government of India that this matter was bound to be raised in one form or the other when he indicated his desire to address a press conference. But he insisted on having this encounter with the press presumably to minimise the gravity of this unfortunate event, although he contended that he was not obliged to offer any public explanation on a matter that concerned the two Governments.

He conceded that the subject was raised during his talk with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, because it had been reported at length in the Indian press, but in his view it did not in any way impair Indo-Polish relations.

Trade Officials' Efforts

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 14 Feb 85 p 8

[Text]

Warsaw, Feb. 13 (PTI): But for a spurt in Polish imports from India, trade between the two countries has been on the decline for several years. The effort of the experts accompanying the Polish Prime Minister, Gen. Wo-

jcich Jaruzelski, during his current five-day visit to India, is to place this declining trade on a different and more efficient footing.

The two-way trade between the countries, which is settled in rupees, declined from Rs 139.8 crores 1981 to Rs 129.1 crores in 1982, according to the Indian embassy in Warsaw.

Polish trade officials said that they were ready to buy more from India if India created a larger rupee fund by increasing its own imports from Poland. The reason for the declining trade, according to them, was that it often involved bulky items, like ships from Poland and iron ore from India.

Due to the decline in shipping the world over in recent years, India's need for ships from Poland fell. This created a shortage of rupee funds for Polish purchases from India.

At the same time, iron ore from Brazil became cheaper for Poland because of the use of bulk carriers by Brazil and this in a way led to the decline in Indian iron ore export to Poland.

Since India bought less from Poland, the rupee fund for Polish imports from India shrank.

Polish officials propose to change the trade, so far based on single transactions in ships, iron ore or traditional items, by diversifying it and introducing

new items. But more than that, they want to establish industrial collaborations between the two countries.

Such exchange of goods and services would put their trade on a more firm and durable basis than ad hoc transactions. It would also result in the increase of the two-way trade, since the requirements of industrial goods of both countries were growing.

Polish trade officials said no new items had been introduced in the two countries' trade for the past five years. Their country was unable to buy Indian textiles, handicrafts and handloom products, for which there was a good demand, because of the shrinkage of the rupee fund.

The Polish experts have proposals in the field of industrial collaboration. For instance, they are prepared to provide equipment for Indian building industry, and import Indian diesel engines of high power for their marine vessels, and export more mining and shipbuilding equipment.

The main items of export to Poland are tea, oilcakes, pepper, tanned and semi-tanned hides and skins, cotton textiles, jute manufactures and mica and mica products.

Report on Joint Press Release

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 16 Feb 85 p 4

[Text]

New Delhi, Feb. 15 (UNI): India and Poland today called for a reform of international economic institutions designed to establish a just and non-discriminatory international economic order.

In a joint press release issued at the end of the five-day official visit of the Prime Minister of Poland, Gen. W. Jaruzelski, the two countries welcomed the proposal for an international conference on money and finance for development.

Gen. Jaruzelski and the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who had intensive talks on international and bilateral matters, voiced serious concern at the persistence of dangerous tensions and conflicts in different parts of the world and stressed the need for steps to check the

nuclear arms race and avert the growing danger of a global nuclear catastrophe.

The two leaders underlined the necessity of halting the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

They urged that these steps be followed by reduction in nuclear weapons, eventually leading to their complete elimination.

Welcoming the decision of the Soviet Union and the United States to commence negotiations on space and nuclear arms, the two leaders hoped these would lead to positive results.

They referred to the important role of the nonaligned movement in the struggle for

world peace, halting of the arms race and nuclear disarmament and in promoting international cooperation. Poland highly valued India's role as chairman of the movement.

Gen. Jaruzelski and Mr Gandhi also called for strengthening the United Nations and the multilateral processes in the cause of peace and international cooperation.

They noted with satisfaction that Gen. Jaruzelski's visit had

contributed to the growth of Indo-Polish friendship and indicated directions for continuing cooperation.

The press release said the talks and meetings were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the traditional friendship between the two countries had grown steadily over the years.

Scope for Cooperation

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 17 Feb 85 p 11

[Article by Piyus Ganguly]

[Text] TRADE between India and Poland has been developing and diversifying ever since the first Indo-Polish trade agreement was signed in 1949. The introduction of the rupee trade system in 1958, which is still valid, gave a major boost to the economic exchange between the two countries. Trade in 1983 was nearly double the 1972-73 figure of Rs 80.43 crores.

Imports from Poland amounted to Rs 86 crores in 1983 which was 3 per cent more than in the previous year. But Polish imports from India dropped by 22 per cent to Rs 68 crores in the same year. Since the mid-seventies, Poland has been facing temporary difficulty in financing its imports from India with its export earnings. Nevertheless, among the socialist countries, Poland continues to be India's second largest trading partner, whereas among the developing countries India is one of Poland's leading trade partners.

Poland has been a traditional supplier of (thermal) power station equipment, which comprise 25 per cent of its exports to India. Two power plants in Koradi and Barauni, supplied on a turn-key basis, are reported to be among the most efficient operating in the country. Several Indian power plants have been equipped with boilers from Poland. Now two power plants in Bokaro and Durgapur are being constructed by Polish companies. Quite clearly, the power sector offers immense scope for increased Indo-Polish collaboration.

Cooperation in the coal-mining industry dates back 25 years when the first Polish machines and mining equipment were supplied. Poland helped India set up a number of mining projects, including the deep shaft coking coal mines of Sudamdih and Moonidih, as also modern coal washeries in Bokaro and four other place. The Polish-installed mechanized long-wall complex at Moonidih has been yielding a daily output of 1,400-2,000 tons. Poland's contribution to the reconstruction and development of the Jharia coalfields has been considerable. Poland's offer of electronic equipment to Coal India Ltd, to modernize mines and their monitoring system, holds out much promise.

Ship-Designing

Poland has cooperated with India in the designing and manufacture of ships (Hindusthan Shipyard Ltd) and in the assembly of marine engines (Garden Reach Engineers Ltd). To date, Poland has supplied India with 15 ships. Polish offers include specialized floating vessels for off-shore exploration and exploitation, and modernization of existing shipyards and harbours.

Besides, contracts have been signed for 19 fishing trawlers for India's 200-mile economic zone. Cooperation in developing the deep-sea fishing industry was considered, among other items, by the Indo-Polish Joint Commission at its Warsaw meeting in October 1982.

Among Indo-Polish collaborative enterprises are a machine tools plant at Hyderabad, a fertilizer plant at Haldia, a steel construction unit at Bombay, a C.I. rods unit at Calcutta, a electric motors plant at New Delhi and an agricultural tractors assembling factory at Faridabad. Motor cycles and heavy duty cranes are other examples. A project is being worked out with a big Indian company for the manufacture of tractors of high range horsepower. A contract is also under way with ONGC for on-shore exploration of gas and oil along the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Bulk Items

Apart from the traditional items of export, the current Polish export offer to India embraces several bulk commodities and raw materials for India's industrial sector, such as coking coal with low ash content, portland cement, copper and copper products, various chemicals and bulk pharmaceuticals, steel products and rapeseed oil. Other new items include textile machinery for wool-processing, specialized machine tools, harvester combines and other agricultural machines and seismic survey services.

The traditional items of Indian exports to Poland comprise tea, oil cakes, pepper, mica, raw cotton, hides, textiles and jute products. Poland buys about 50 per cent of India's total fodder export. The new items include textile machinery, printing and copying machines, cast-iron products, diesel engines and tyres. But India, it is felt, should try to boost its exports of consumer goods which are much needed in Poland. Hitherto, Poland has been importing these items goods from the West. The production of most of these items is labour-intensive.

CSO: 4600/1369

INDIA

PAKISTANI DISCUSSES RESUMPTION OF TALKS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Feb 85 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] NEW DELHI, Feb. 9--While there has been no evidence so far of any top-level initiative either from Pakistan or India to improve relations between the two countries, the Pakistani envoy here has expressed his Government's desire for early resumption of talks at the Foreign Secretaries level and also the meetings of the Joint Ministerial Commission.

The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries had met at Udaipur and Islamabad last year but hopes of a continuing dialogue were belied with India's deepening mistrust of Pakistan's acquisition of sophisticated weapons. Pakistan's repeated affirmations that these weapons were not designed to be trained against India did not convince Indian leaders who pointed to Indo-Pak wars in the past belying Pakistani claims.

The Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission set up during the non-aligned summit after a meeting between Indira Gandhi and President Zia and the sub-commissions have met last year but again with little success.

A meeting at Jawaharlal Nehru University last evening, provided the occasion for the Pakistani Ambassador, Dr Humayun Khan, to plead for early resumption of talks between the two countries. To quote Dr Khan: "We must press on with this dialogue which was designed to establish a durable relationship of peace and good neighbourliness".

Dr Khan said that good relations with India were particularly important for Pakistan and was in the mutual interest of the two countries. He recalled that Pakistan had offered a non-aggression pact and had accepted India's proposal for a Joint Ministerial commission to promote friendly relations.

The Ambassador described the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's statements on foreign friendly relations with neighbours as "positives".

CSO: 4600/1375

INDIA

ANALYST ON PLANS TO RESUME TALKS WITH PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 17--As part of India's current efforts to improve relations with neighbouring countries, the suspended dialogue with Pakistan will be resumed shortly along with a meeting of the Joint Commission, which was also postponed indefinitely in the wake of mounting evidence that Islamabad had been aiding and abetting the Sikh extremists.

The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Niaz Naik, is due to visit Delhi next month after the Pakistan elections to resume the discussions with his Indian counterpart, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, on the two drafts for a simple no-war pact and a more comprehensive treaty on friendship and cooperation proposed by the two governments.

Trial of Hijackers

The initiative for resumption of this suspended dialogue has been taken by India as part of the new policy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to strive for better understanding with neighbouring countries by eliminating frictions whenever possible, consistent with India's national interests. As a reciprocal gesture, Pakistan has agreed to place the hijackers on trial as a token of its desire for better relations.

Mr. Gandhi, and the Pakistan President, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, have been exchanging some private messages to create a better climate for the proposed resumption of the no-war dialogue by ending the present freeze with some positive steps to bring about an early thaw in the strained relations. It has been noted with some appreciation in Delhi that the virulent anti-Indian press campaign in Pakistan has been halted and that no provocative statements are being made by Pakistani leaders about the Punjab situation.

But India is not jumping to the conclusion that there has been a genuine change of heart and that Pakistan would now stop interfering in Punjab, since the change in its stance is seen only as a tactical move to avoid the impression of open hostility towards India by inciting the Sikh extremists to keep up their violent campaign for separation. The policy-makers in Delhi

see no harm in accepting Pakistani moves for a rapprochement at their face value, if only to dispel the impression abroad that India is being too rigid in its dealings with Pakistan.

The two points on which the earlier talks on a no-war pact had run into a dead end--the Indian insistence on a mutual commitment not to lease bases or offer military facilities to other powers and the Pakistani contention that it should retain the right to revive the Kashmir issue in the U.N. if it could not be settled through bilateral negotiations--still remain the main hurdles to a fuller friendship treaty or a limited accord on non-aggression. The earlier bid to merge the two drafts into a single document by blurring these two issues with a set of platitudes failed to make much headway because of continued reservations about each other's political intentions behind their negotiating postures.

Prolonged Freeze

The two sides will certainly try to break the ice and strive for a sustained thaw during the forthcoming talks in Delhi to end the prolonged freeze in Indo-Pak. relations. But it remains to be seen whether either of them would come forward with any bold suggestions to open the way for early normalisation. It will take several rounds of talks at the official level spread over a period of time, followed by a summit meeting between the two heads of government at some stage, to remove the deep-rooted distrust that has soured the relations between India and Pakistan since Partition.

As long as Pakistan persists in arming itself well beyond its legitimate defense requirements, India would continue to view even its peace overtures with a degree of suspicion. The current arms race has only sharpened the lingering animosities and added to the prevailing apprehensions in India about the Pakistani motivations in acquiring new weapons systems that can be used only for offensive operations.

Missing Element of Trust

The question of Indo-Pakistan reconciliation has to be tackled at both the political and psychological levels to restore the missing element of mutual trust, before anything else can be done to normalise relations. There are no outstanding problems as such between the two countries that remain to be settled, since they have reconciled themselves to the de facto division of Kashmir for all practical purposes.

The two Indo-Pak. wars of 1965 and 1971 have convinced Pakistan that it cannot alter this status quo by resort to military action again. And India too has made it quite clear that it is prepared to settle the issue on the basis of the existing realities, leaving the occupied part to Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/1373

INDIA

INDO-FRENCH RELATIONS IN VIEW OF SPY CASE DISCUSSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 14.

After making its strong resentment known to France in no uncertain terms, the Government is taking appropriate steps to ensure that the spy scandal does not impair Indo-French relations seriously to the detriment of its own larger interests.

The External Affairs Ministry will be hosting a dinner in honour of the outgoing French ambassador, Mr. Serge Boidevaix, to bid him a formal farewell.

As the ambassador, who has been recalled by his Government at India's instance, was given 30 days to leave the country, he is still here preparing to return well before the end of this month. But he continues to deal with the Government in his official capacity because he had not been personally accused of involvement in this episode.

French PM's assurance: After India's request to recall the ambassador was conveyed to him, the French Prime Minister, Mr. Laurent Fabius, spoke to his counterpart, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, on telephone to express his distress over what had happened and assure that he had no knowledge of this espionage operation. He hoped that the incident would not be allowed to injure Indo-French relations.

At one stage of this shocking episode, the Government seemed to be in no hurry to accord its approval to the appointment of Mr. Jean Bernard Merime as the next French ambassador in Delhi. But the latest thinking is that no useful purpose would be served by delaying this approval beyond a point.

So, the Government is thinking of appointing the next Indian ambassador to France shortly, without leaving the post vacant for too long, as contemplated earlier, following the retirement of Mr. Narendra Singh at the end of last

month, which in a strange and unintended way had coincided with the demand for the recall of Mr. Boidevaix from Delhi. The intention is not to interrupt diplomatic contacts at the ambassadorial level by delaying the two appointments, however sore India continues to feel over this episode.

Negotiations will be resumed: After the dust has settled, the pending negotiations over defence deals will also be resumed and the necessary agreements signed strictly on merit depending on the quality of equipment offered, the prices and payment procedures. But, otherwise, Indo-French relations will not be the same for a long time, since it will require a sustained effort on the part of the French Government to restore the shaken confidence.

There have been hints from Paris that a senior French personality might pay a brief visit to Delhi to mollify India's ruffled feelings with adequate assurances that what happened would not be allowed to be repeated. If it is not mutually convenient for a top French leader to visit Delhi, a special emissary of the President, Mr. Mitterrand, might be sent on such a mission before Mr. Rajiv Gandhi visits Paris in June on his way to Washington.

Probe on: Meanwhile, the Government is vigorously pursuing the investigations not merely to track down and punish the culprits, but also trace the full ramifications of this espionage activity to assess the damage done to the country's interests and tighten security.

There are also indications that one or two of East European countries involved in this spy scandal intend to change their ambassadors before long with all the appearance of the normal rotation even if the Government does not call for such action.

CSO: 4600/1365

INDIA

PORTFOLIOS OF NEW TAMIL NADU MINISTERS REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Feb 85 p 12

[Text]

MADRAS, Feb. 14.

The following is the allocation of portfolios among the Tamil Nadu Ministers announced by the Governor today:

Mr. M. G. Ramachandran (Chief Minister): Public, General Administration, Indian Administrative Service and other all-India services, District Revenue Officers, Deputy Collectors, Police, Prevention of Corruption, Planning, Molasses, Archaeology, Prohibition excluding grant of liquor permits, Electronics, Science and Technology, Commercial Taxes, Excise, Textiles, Large-Scale Industries, Mines and Minerals, Newsprint Control, Bonded Labour, Employment Training and Passports.

Mr. V. R. Nedunchezian (Minister for Finance): Finance, Revenue, Legislature, Elections, Statistics, Youth Service Corps and Ex-Servicemen.

Mr. S. Ramachandran (Minister for Electricity): Electricity, Iron and Steel Control, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Stationery and Printing, Government Press and Hill Tribes.

Mr. K. A. Krishnaswamy (Minister for Labour): Labour, Animal Husbandry, Milk, Dairy Development, Registration and Stamp Act.

Mr. R. M. Veerappan (Minister for Information and Religious Endowments): Information and Publicity, Film Technology, Tourism, Tourism Development Corporation, Cinematograph Act, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Forest, Cinchona and grant of liquor permits.

Mr. C. Aranganayagam (Minister for Education): Education, Official Language, Tamil Development and Culture.

Mr. K. Kalimuthu (Minister for Agriculture): Agriculture, Agricultural Refinance, Agricultural

Engineering Wing and Agro Engineering, Agro Service Cooperative Societies, TWAD Board, Town Planning and Accommodation Control.

Mr. C. Ponnaiyan (Minister for Law): Law, Courts, Prisons, Legislation on Weights and Measures, Registration of Companies, Debt Relief including legislation on money-lending and legislation on chits.

Dr. H. V. Hande (Minister for Health): Health and Environmental Pollution Control.

Mr. S. Muthusamy (Minister for Transport): Transport, Nationalised Transport, Motor Vehicles Act and Ports and Highways.

Mr. S. Thirunavukkarasu (Minister for Food): Food, Price Control and Census.

Mr. R. Soundararajan (Minister for Housing and Local Administration): Municipal Administration, Panchayats and Panchayat Unions, Community Development and Rural Indebtedness, Housing and Slum Clearance Board.

Mr. M. R. Govendhan (Minister for Backward Classes): Backward Classes and Fisheries.

Mrs. Gomathi Srinivasan (Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals): Nutritious Meals, Social Welfare including Women and Children Welfare, Beggars Home, Orphanages, Indians Overseas, Refugees and Evacuees, Correctional Administration, Bhoodan and Gramdan.

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Palanisamy (Minister for Khadi and Handlooms): Khadi and Handlooms.

Mr. Y. S. M. Yusuf (Minister for Public Works): PWD and establishment matters relating to PWD, Irrigation including Minor Irrigation and Wakf.

Mr. K. K. S. S. R. Ramachandran (Minister for Cooperation and Rural Industries): Cooperation, Rural Industries including Village, Cottage and Small Industries.

CSO: 4600/1365

INDIA

PROCESS OF ACTIVATING ANTIDEFECTION BILL DESCRIBED

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 16 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 15--President Zail Singh today gave his assent to the Constitution (52nd) Amendment Bill, 1985, otherwise called the anti-defection Bill, thus putting on the statute book a measure to check political defections. The Bill is not required to be ratified by the State Assemblies since it amended Articles 101, 102, 190 and 191, and added a new schedule, the 10th, to the Constitution.

The new law, which now becomes an Act, will disqualify a member of any party from Parliament or State Legislature membership if he defects to another party after election.

However, there are provisions in the legislation dealing with a split in a political party or merger of political parties that will not attract disqualification under the Act.

A split that will not attract the disqualification clause must have the backing of one-third of the total membership of the party concerned for merger, it must have the backing of two-thirds of the total membership of the party.

Though the President has given his assent to the Bill, it will take some time for it to become effective as a few more procedural steps have to be gone through before the stipulations made in the legislation can be made binding on erring members.

The first necessary formality that now has to be gone through to give effect to the law is that political parties must incorporate in their constitution such provisions of the Bill as are needed to give effect to them. Some of the political parties, it has been found, do not even have a proper constitution. They would have to be assisted in framing it. Also, those parties that have a constitution would have to incorporate a new clause in it that would specify the manner in which it would expel any member who violates the norms provided in the legislation and also specify the authority in the party who or which would exercise or mete out the punishment for violation of the norms.

Similarly, since the law would have application in all the legislatures, all presiding offices would have to be given model rules for them to act upon when

they are confronted with cases of violation by a member or members of any provision of the anti-defection law.

Thus, the framing of rules under the Act by the Government, the process of getting political parties to provide suitable provision in their party constitution and familiarizing presiding officers with the do's and don'ts under the Act would take time.

The anti-defection Bill, which is the first major legislation of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was passed by Parliament at the end of last month, and it was pushed through with great urgency at the insistence of the Prime Minister, who, while replying to the debate on the Bill in both Houses, had said that it was a first step towards "cleaning our public life".

CSO: 4600/1368

INDIA

MIG-29'S, MIRAGES EXPECTED IN INDIA BY JULY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, 14--India will receive MIG-29 aircraft by the middle of this year, it is learnt. The Indian Air Force will also equip itself with another fighter aircraft, the French Mirage-2000, by the end of July. At least one squadron of the Mirage-2000 is likely to be raised by then.

India is perhaps the first country to receive the MIG-29. The aircraft has not been supplied even to Warsaw Pact countries. Even the Soviet Air Force is not yet fully equipped with the MIG-29.

The reason why India is equipping itself with the latest Soviet aircraft is the acquisition of F-16s by Pakistan. The MIG-29, however, is more than a match for the F-16. It is said to be more lethal and powerful than the F-16. IAF pilots are undergoing training in the Soviet Union and are expected to bring the first MIG-29 to India. Another team of pilots is being trained in France.

India had toyed with the idea of going in for the licensed production of Mirage-2000 but the proposal was later given up. However, the number of Mirage-2000 being acquired is being increased in view of the requirements of the IAF. This was done after the Soviet Union assured India that it would supply MIG-29s soon in view of the urgent need of the IAF.

According to well-informed sources, the MIG-29 is a twin-engine aircraft comparable in size to the F-16. But an important difference is that the MIG-29 is fitted with a large pulse doppler radar, which gives it an all-weather capability against low-flying targets as well as freedom from the outmoded ground control interception techniques that restricted the Soviet air defence effectiveness in the past.

Known in NATO countries as Fulcrum, the MIG-29 represents a concerted effort by the Soviet Union to close the technology gap with the West. The aircraft's combat radius and sustained turn rate are much improved over earlier Soviet fighters.

It is likely to have an air combat and attack capability. The aircraft is almost certain to follow the initial single-seat version in future.

The Mirage-2000 is a single-seat interceptor and equally suitable for reconnaissance, close support and low-altitude attack. Its armament includes two 30mm cannons, nine attachments for external stores, five under fuselage and two under each wing. It is also equipped with a multi-role radar with a range of 100 km.

CSO: 4600/1362

APPENDIX A

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a detailed description of the Mirage-2000 aircraft, its capabilities, and its operational requirements. This information is intended for use by the relevant authorities and personnel involved in the procurement and operation of the aircraft.

The document is organized as follows: Section 1 provides an overview of the aircraft; Section 2 describes the aircraft's performance characteristics; Section 3 details the aircraft's armament and equipment; and Section 4 outlines the aircraft's operational requirements.

The Mirage-2000 is a single-engine, delta-wing fighter aircraft. It is designed for high-speed, high-altitude operations. The aircraft is capable of performing a wide range of missions, including air-to-air combat, air-to-ground attack, and reconnaissance. The aircraft's performance characteristics are detailed in Section 2.

The aircraft's armament and equipment are detailed in Section 3. The aircraft is equipped with two 30mm cannons, nine attachment points for external stores, and a multi-role radar. The aircraft's operational requirements are outlined in Section 4.

The aircraft's performance characteristics are detailed in Section 2. The aircraft is capable of reaching a maximum speed of Mach 2.0 at high altitude. It has a maximum range of 1,500 km and a maximum service ceiling of 20,000 m. The aircraft's performance characteristics are detailed in Section 2.

The aircraft's armament and equipment are detailed in Section 3. The aircraft is equipped with two 30mm cannons, nine attachment points for external stores, and a multi-role radar. The aircraft's operational requirements are outlined in Section 4.

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INDIA

'HINDU' ANALYST DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA

Protest over Patrol Boat Firing

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 15--A strong protest was lodged by India with Sri Lanka today against the killing of two Indian fishermen by a Sri Lankan naval patrol boat well within Indian territorial waters on Wednesday.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, summoned the Sri Lanka High Commissioner, Mr. Bernard Tilakratne, today to convey India's concern and indignation over this provocative incident, with an implied warning that the Indian Navy and Coast Guard would be compelled to take suitable action, if the Sri Lankan patrol boats did not refrain from such attacks in future.

Compensation Urged

The Government of India, which made independent inquiries to ascertain the facts, was satisfied that the intruding Sri Lankan patrol vessel opened fire with automatic weapons on the Indian fishing boat near Kodikadal off Rameswaram on the Indian side of the median line. It was only after verifying the version of the three survivors who brought the bodies of their two colleagues gunned down by the Sri Lankan naval personnel that the Foreign Secretary sent for the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to convey the Indian protest along with a demand for adequate compensation.

An additional point that the Foreign Secretary made, while conveying India's "deep concern" to Mr. Tilakratne, was that a growing number of Tamil fishermen were fleeing from the Jaffna area in the wake of army excesses to seek refuge in India, adding to the influx of other Tamils from there. The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has been drawing attention repeatedly to this refugee problem which could assume serious dimensions if no political solution was found to the Tamil problem.

It is, therefore, considered most unfortunate that the Sri Lankan naval boats patrolling the so-called surveillance zone should start indulging in fresh provocations so soon after the visit of the Sri Lankan Minister for National

Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, who promised that his navy would exercise the utmost restraint to avoid such incidents in future. The inevitable conclusion that is being drawn in Delhi is that either the Sri Lankan Government has no control over its naval patrols or it has been deliberately indulging in double talk to evade responsibility for these recurring provocations.

But at the same time observers of these unfortunate incidents in the Palk Bay, involving the loss of many innocent Indian lives, are perplexed why the Indian Navy and Coast Guard have not been taking adequate steps to intercept the intruding Sri Lankan patrol boats and prevent them from firing on Indian fishermen.

At the political level, too, the Government has been merely reacting to events in Sri Lanka and going through the motions of voicing its concern to mollify public opinion in Tamil Nadu, without matching moves to make it abundantly clear to Sri Lanka that there is a limit to India's tolerance. The apparent Indian hesitation to display the necessary firmness has been encouraging the hardliners in the Sri Lankan Government to imagine that they would be able to exert enough international pressure on India to let them tackle the Tamil problem in their own way without any fear of Indian intervention.

The Human Rights Commission is now in session in Geneva and India is going to raise once again before this international body the question of the indiscriminate killings of Tamils in the Jaffna area by the rampaging Sri Lankan armed forces. The Indian representative spoke strongly on the last occasion and he is expected to do so in a much more outspoken manner this time in the light of the many brutal atrocities that are being committed almost daily on the civil population there in the name of fighting terrorism.

MGR's Appeal

In a statement in Madras tonight, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, appealed to the fishermen in the coastal areas of Rameswaram not to get agitated or indulge in violence in protest against the killing of fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

He condemned the indiscriminate killing of fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy even when they were inside the Indian territorial waters.

The Chief Minister said both the Centre and the State Government were taking all steps to halt such atrocities. He had also sent to the Prime Minister a detailed telegram in this regard. The Tamil Nadu Government was taking steps to provide relief to the families of fishermen who were killed and wounded.

UNI reports from Madras:

The Sri Lanka Government has denied reports that its naval personnel fired at and killed two Indian fishermen at Kodikadal off Rameswaram coast on Wednesday.

In a communication to the Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission here, the island's Defence Secretary described the reports as a "deliberate campaign of disinformation designed to create ill-will between India and Sri Lanka," a High Commission spokesman said.

He said all the Sri Lankan naval boats had prominent markings inscribed on them and if there had been any such incident as alleged, the fishermen could have noted the markings and informed the Indian Coast Guard vessels patrolling the area.

Jawardene 'Tirade' Resented

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 20--The Government of India is taking a serious view of the baseless allegations that the Sri Lankan President, Jr. J. R. Jayewardene, made today in his address to his country's Parliament accusing India of arming and training Tamil terrorists, who he said were being encouraged to intensify their violent campaign.

The anger with which he has spoken is seen as part of a deliberate attempt by the Sri Lankan Government to transform the ethnic crisis in the island into an open row with India to internationalise what is essentially an internal problem.

The Government of India is awaiting the text of Mr. Jayewardene's address to make a detailed study of the exact context and the sequence in which he has repeated the old charges, before assessing the possible motivations behind his bitter anti-Indian tirade. Though there is nothing new in the harsh charges levelled by him, the Indian authorities are quite perplexed why the Sri Lankan President has chosen to speak out against India in such a sharp manner at this time, when diplomatic efforts are under way to bring about an early resumption of the suspended dialogue for settling the Tamil problem.

Playing for Time?

There is apparently some hesitation on the part of Mr. Jayewardene to meet the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, for a candid discussion on the tragic ethnic tangle that has strained Indo-Sri Lankan relations. He sent his Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalit Athulathmudali, to Delhi evidently to play for time and avoid a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister at this stage.

The Indian suspicions about the real purpose of the Sri Lankan plea for joint patrolling of the Palk Bay have been confirmed by what Mr. Jayewardene himself has said on the subject in his address to Parliament. He talked of joint surveillance primarily to "prevent infiltration into Sri Lanka of terrorists from Indian soil," besides impeding the movement of refugees into India from the Jaffna area following the intensification of military reprisals on civil population.

The Indian policy is not to reject the Sri Lankan proposal for joint patrolling as impractical or inadvisable in the present circumstances, but to seek the necessary clarifications before indicating its well considered response to the suggestion. First of all, India would like to be enlightened on what exactly Sri Lankan means by joint patrolling, what are the operational mechanics for it, whether it implies supply of information to the Sri Lankan naval boats about movement of alleged terrorists, and whether it involves a reciprocal obligation to turn back the refugees and use of force to intercept Indian fishing boats that are suspected by the Sri Lankan Navy to be engaged in gun-running across the Palk Strait

The Sri Lankan Government appears to be proceeding on the assumption that, after the parliamentary elections in India, Mr. Gandhi is under no pressure to react strongly against the use of excessive force against the Tamil extremists as well as the civil population, it is making a grave mistake in imagining that Indian opinion has become somewhat insensitive to the military outrages in Jaffna area after the elections. There is, on the contrary, every danger of India getting drawn more and more into this crisis, despite Mr. Gandhi's recent statement ruling out Indian intervention.

There is a difference between involvement and intervention, since no government in Delhi can be indifferent to the terrible plight of the Tamils in Sri Lanka in the wake of the mounting refugee problem, even if it has no intention of intervening to save them from the senseless fury of the Sri Lankan armed forces.

The rhetorical observation of Mr. Jayewardene in his address to Parliament that "if we do not occupy the border, the border will come to us," indicates the grim mood of the hawks in his Government who are bent on a large-scale settlement of Sinhalese families in the predominantly Tamil areas, to reduce the percentage of the Tamil majority in the Northern and Eastern provinces. It holds out explosive possibilities of a civil war between the two communities, adding another tragic dimension to the ethnic problem.

Joint Patrol Plan Under Study

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 18--The new Sri Lankan proposal for joint patrolling of the Palk Bay by the navies of the two countries to avoid untoward incidents in the territorial waters on either side has deeper political implications that what appears to be a well-meaning suggestion on the face of it, according to experts here.

It implies not merely a joint effort to prevent the alleged violations of Sri Lankan maritime jurisdiction by Indian fishermen, but also a shared obligation to monitor the movement of Tamil refugees fleeing the Jaffna area, besides barring the Eelam Tigers from operating across the so-called surveillance zone.

An official spokesman, who did not go into the merits of the Sri Lankan proposal, said today that a gist of the talk that the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister, Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, had with the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. S. R. S. Chhatwal, in Colombo yesterday had been received today, and that the Government was awaiting a fuller report before reacting to it. The High Commissioner is expected in Delhi tomorrow on leave, when he would be able to give his own assessment of the Sri Lankan proposition.

Mr. Hameed had called Mr. Chhatwal to discuss the press reports in India that the Sri Lankan patrols had killed two Indian fishermen last Monday. He also told the High Commissioner that the Navy Commander had investigated the case and had assured that his men were not involved in the killing.

Not New

This is not the first time that Sri Lanka has made this suggestion, since it had been mooted earlier in a different form in the course of diplomatic exchanges over repeated incidents in the Palk Bay involving frequent interceptions of Indian fishing vessels by Sri Lankan naval patrol boats.

It had been suggested that the Indian Coast Guard and the Sri Lankan navy operating in the Palk Bay should establish VHF (very high frequency) radio contact to share information about unauthorised movement of fishing boats poaching across the median line and other craft ferrying suspected terrorists or carrying arms supplies for them.

Now the Sri Lankan Government has come forward with a more comprehensive suggestion calling for joint patrolling by the two navies virtually to seal off the Palk Strait from both sides, leaving the Tamil community in Jaffna at the mercy of the Sri Lankan armed forces.

It would amount to India closing the escape routes of the refugees by sharing information about their movement with the Sri Lankan naval patrol boats which will be free to open fire on them for violating the so-called surveillance zone.

All these aspects would be carefully looked into before India indicates its reaction to the Sri Lankan suggestion. As India sees it, the most important thing to be done at present is for Sri Lanka to desist from its indiscriminate violence against civilian population under the guise of fighting terrorism.

The refugee influx into India is bound to increase despite joint patrolling until the panic-stricken Tamils no longer feel compelled to abandon their homes and flee across the hazardous Palk Strait even at the risk of losing their lives.

Misreading

The Government of India is astonished by the Sri Lankan denial of the charge that its naval patrols were firing on both fishing boats and fleeing refugees well within Indian territorial waters, along with the astounding allegation that some Tamil terrorists masquerading as Sri Lankan naval personnel might be staging these incidents to strain Indo-Sri Lankan relations.

The Sri Lankan authorities also seem to be imagining that after the parliamentary elections, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, is under no pressure from Tamil Nadu to take a tougher stand over this tragic situation, that they could expect him to give them the benefit of doubt in dealing with this admittedly complex ethnic problem.

It is a complete misreading of the current Indian thinking on Sri Lanka, since the Prime Minister's assertion that there is no question of any Indian intervention cannot be misconstrued as indifference to the terrible plight of the Tamil community there, much less of willingness to participate in joint naval patrolling to close the escape routes for the fleeing refugees under the guise of preventing Indian fishermen from unintentionally crossing the median line.

CSO: 4600/1378

INDIA

UNIT ESTABLISHED TO MONITOR PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] CALCUTTA, Feb. 18--To ensure satisfactory progress of major public sector projects, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has urged the authorities concerned to send him periodical 'flash' reports. A three-member cell has been set up to help the Planning Commission monitor their progress.

Mr. J. N. Narayanan will be in overall charge and Mr. C. S. Rangaraj and Dr. Gulab Singh will go into the problems relating to management of the projects.

The directive will apply to all Central projects involving an investment of over Rs. 100 crores.

A circular to some of the Central Government officials here said the time-lag in asking for specific information about an ongoing project and the reply sent was big. The present decision would take care of such problems, specially relating to projects under "the PERT/CPM network" (Programme Evaluation Review Technique/Critical Path Method).

Vital details: Administrative circles in Calcutta were still pondering how to work out the latest instruction. While no one seemed to be fully informed of what exactly the Centre had in mind, a tentative guess was that vital details concerning inputs, problem areas, delays, and progress achieved so far would have to be sent every month.

According to instructions, such details much reach Delhi by the third of every month and they would be fed to the computers to aid future programming, and accurate monitoring at any moment. In the past the system was to work out everything from occasional statements prepared on individual ongoing projects.

Informed circles said that the emphasis was clearly on getting the projects completed within the stipulated schedule following an identification of the difficult parts involved. Establishment of firm criteria of accountability could well be another factor.

In West Bengal the metro transport project is one to be monitored regularly. The estimated cost of the project with underground railway services linking Dum Dum in the north to Tollygunge in the south is around Rs. 850 crores. Of

this Rs. 323 crores has been spent and the service partially commissioned in the north and the central-south sections. It is certain, however, despite the good work done by local engineers and others that the project will not be completed by its schedule date in 1989.

The MTP authorities are inviting Japanese technicians to help them out on specific engineering and traffic problems of the project. The experts, expected shortly, would be functioning from a separate local office, MTP circles said here today.

CSO: 4600/1378

INDIA

AGENCY REVIEWS BOOK BY FORMER KASHMIR CHIEF MINISTER

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 15 Feb 85 p 4

[Text]

New Delhi, Feb. 14 (PTI): Dr Farooq Abdullah, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, has claimed that his visit to Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir in 1974 and his meeting with the late Sikh extremist leader, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, in 1983 were for the broader interests of the country.

Dr Abdullah charged that the ruling Congress(I) party had launched a character assassination campaign against him by dubbing him "anti-national, pro-Khalistani, and pro-Pakistan," leading eventually, he claimed, to a conspiracy to topple his government.

The former Kashmir chief minister made these revelations in a just published book, *My dismissal*. He gives an account of "Operation Newstar" as he calls the developments which led to his fall from power.

Dr Abdullah said he went to Pakistan in 1974 on an invitation from the Occupied Kashmir unit of the Plebiscite Front. During the visit, he was introduced to Kashmir Liberation Front (KLF) leaders like Hashim Quershi, Amanullah Khan and Maqbool Butt. But, he said, at that time he had no idea of the existence of such a front.

Maqbool Butt was executed in Tihar jail last year while Hashim Quershi, along with two other Kashmiris, hijacked an Indian Airlines Fokker Friendship aircraft to Pakistan in 1971 and has since stayed there.

Dr Abdullah said he sat through the two-day convention held in Mirpur in Occupied Kashmir close to the line of actual control. However, he de-

nied the allegation that he became a member of the KLF or any other organisation.

Dr Abdullah said on his return after the eight-day trip to Pakistan during which he also met the late Pakistan Prime Minister, Z: A. Bhutto, he had conveyed whatever transpired there to Mrs Indira Gandhi.

"After my meeting in Mirpur in 1974, I have never met Hashim Quershi, Amanullah Khan or Maqbool Butt nor has there been any contact between us," Dr Abdullah said, adding that this was being played up now to malign him and add a new dimension to his dispute with the Centre.

He said the Congress(I) went to the extent of blaming him for the hijacking of an Indian Airlines Airbus from Srinagar in June 1984. He reiterated his charge that the entire operation was masterminded by the Intelligence Bureau at the behest of some influential Congressmen.

He said his meeting with Sant Bhindranwale lasted 15 minutes during which the Sant raised the Punjab issue and on his leaving, asked him to join in shouting the slogan, "Sikh-Muslim unity zindabad," which he refused.

Turning to internal developments, Dr Abdullah called for a national debate on Centre-state relations, and said moves for adjustments did not amount to conspiracy to weaken the Centre.

The former chief minister said his concept of federalism was to have a strong Centre with strong states as links working in tandem and not pulling in opposite directions.

Criticising the treatment of minorities in the country, Dr Abdullah alleged that they had been used by politicians merely as voting blocks and not as human beings.

Asserting that the accession of Kashmir to the Union of India was final and irrevocable, Dr Abdullah said he favoured a system like that in Scotland to be considered for the three regions of the state, Kashmir, Ladakh and Jammu.

He said the government of India should move in a friendly way for the return of Pakistan and Chinese occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Once these territories were returned to India, ties with both Pakistan and China would improve.

CSO: 4600/1364

INDIA

BRIEFS

UTTAR PRADESH MINISTER--LUCKNOW, Feb. 14--Mr Kashi Nath Misra, Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Cooperation who was denied a Congress (I) ticket for the coming Vidhan Sabha elections, has submitted his resignation from the Ministry, reports PTI. He told reporters he had submitted his resignation yesterday on moral grounds to the Chief Minister, Mr N. D. Tewari. Mr Misra is the second Minister in the Tewari Cabinet who has resigned. Earlier, Mr Shyam Lal Bajpai, a Deputy Minister resigned on similar grounds. Mr Misra, in his resignation letter sent to Mr Tewari, has reportedly expressed his inability to work for the Congress (I) during the coming elections. He said he would not go to his home district in Ballia to campaign for the party's candidates. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Feb 85 p 1]

WESTERN NAVAL CHIEF--BOMBAY, February 19--Commodore P. K. Jain will take over tomorrow as chief staff officer, Western Naval Command, here from commodore S. C. Bindra, who is leaving for Delhi on a new assignment, official sources said here today. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Feb 85 p 3]

INDO-PAKISTAN TOURS--NEW DELHI, February 17 (PTI)--Conducted tours between India and Pakistan organised by their respective tourism corporations, will start by the middle of March. The tours are being organised under the recently signed protocol to promote amity and friendship between the two countries, according to ITDC sources here. The first batch of 60 Pakistani tourists will reach India on March 18 and would return to their country after visiting Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, according to ITDC. Indian tourists would be taken to Pakistan by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) subsidiary, Ashok Tour and Travels to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Taxla, the ancient seat of learning, and would return to Delhi after six days, the sources added. Tourism corporation of the two countries will offer two types of package tour. The first tour would cover Lahore, Rawalpindi, Taxla and back to Delhi while the second tour would include Karachi and Hyderabad Sind. The Pakistani tourists will be able to visit Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Karachi, Bombay, Aurangabad and Delhi. While Indian tourists will have to pay Rs. 5,500 and Rs. 6,500 for the first and second group of tours respectively, the Pakistani tourists will be paying Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 8,000 respectively in their currency, the sources added. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Feb 85 p 9]

INDO-THAI TRADE BODY--New Delhi, Feb. 13 (UNI)--India and Thailand have agreed to set up a joint trade committee (JTC) to further expand and diversify

bilateral trade and enter into joint ventures. The first meeting of the JTC will be held here in December this year. A memorandum of understanding, said the JTC will facilitate exchange of trade information, review development of current trade and identify areas for further cooperation. The JTC, which will meet every year, will also recommend to both governments specific measures for expansion and diversification of trade. The memorandum of understanding was signed today by the commerce ministers of both countries. The signing ceremony was preceded by a meeting between the finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh and his Thai counterpart, Mr Kesel Krairiksh. It was decided that an industrial delegation from India would visit Thailand in the near future to identify areas for joint ventures, according to an official release. Mr V. P. Singh spoke of the various incentives already available in the free trade zones where in such joint venture units could operate freely for supplying products to Asean markets. In response to India's offer of wheat, Mr. Krairiksh said the Thai importing agencies would meet their counterparts in India and work out the quantity of wheat to be imported and other details directly. In response to an offer for supply of minerals for industrial use in India, Mr Singh said the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) would contact the concerned Thai authorities to further discuss the proposal. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 14 Feb 85 p 8]

INDO-CANADIAN ENGINEERING PACT--New Delhi, Feb. 13 (UNI)--An agreement was signed here today to develop business opportunities between Canadian and Indian engineering industries. Under the agreement signed between the Canadian Manufacturers Association (CMA) and the Association of Indian Engineering Industry (AIEI), the latter will open an office in Toronto. While Mr Gurpreet Singh, president of AIEI, signed on behalf of his association, Mr Graeme Hughes, senior vice president of CMA, signed on behalf of his association. Dr Vijay Kelkar, adviser, ministry of petroleum, called upon the Canadian industry to participate in India's oil and gas development programmes during the Seventh Plan period, when about \$20 billions were expected to be invested in this sector. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 14 Feb 85 p 8]

AGREEMENT WITH NEPAL--Kathmandu, Jan. 16--India and Nepal have agreed to co-operate in controlling the unauthorized trade along the 100-km borders, reports UNI. This was decided at the Indo-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee meeting under agreement on the controlling of unauthorized trade, which concluded here yesterday. The Indian team to the talks was led by the Additional Customs Collector of Patna, Mr A.K. Singh while the Nepalese side was led by the Deputy Director of the Customs Department, Mr Priya Darshan Sharma. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Jan 85 p 9]

INVITATION TO BANDUNG--Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been invited in his capacity as chairman of the nonaligned movement to participate in the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Bandung conference of Afro-Asian nations being organised by Indonesia on 23 April in Jakarta this year, reports PTI. The personal invitation from President Suharto was handed over to Mr Gandhi by Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Mochtar Kusumatmadja when the latter called on him soon after his arrival in Delhi on a three-day state visit to India. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said Mr Gandhi thanked the Indonesian Foreign Minister for the invitation which he said will be considered and the reply communicated to him soon. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Jan 85 p 1]

KARNATAKA MINISTER RESIGNS--BANGALORE, Feb. 18--The Karnataka Governor, Mr. A. N. Banerji, today accepted the resignation of Mr. Vyjanath Patil, as Minister for Horticulture with immediate effect, on the recommendation of the Chief Minister, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde. Mr. Patil had tendered his resignation to the Chief Minister last week, expressing his dissatisfaction over the selection of the Janata party candidates for the Assembly elections. He had also accused the Hegde Government of non-performance. Mr. Patil, an MLC, continues to be a member of the Janata party. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Feb 85 p 1]

BORDER EXTREMISTS CHECK--Amritsar, Feb. 13 (UNI)--The Union government proposes to declare as "no-man's land" a 500-metre-stretch along the Indo-Pak border in Punjab to check the movement of extremists, official sources said here today. The sources said the Punjab government had in three districts--Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur--started preparing the lists of owners whose land fall within this belt and asked the state revenue department to furnish details of the value. The border length in the three districts was estimated at 600 km. The belt covered an area of about 30,000 hectares of which 25,000 hectares was cultivable and fertile. Official sources said if the land--which was mostly privately owned--was acquired, the government would have to pay about Rs 2 crores to the landowners. Apart from the compensation, the government would lose a yield of 1.25 lakh tonnes of food-grains worth about Rs 20 crores annually. The proposal suggested to the home ministry by the BSF some time ago, also includes erection of a barbed-wire fence. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 14 Feb 85 p 1]

BANGLADESHIS KIDNAP STUDENTS--AGARTALA, Feb. 17--Two Indian school students were kidnapped by intruding Bangladesh Rifles jawans from West Tripura's Narayanpur village, 500 yards inside the Indian territory last evening, police said today. Quoting eye-witnesses, police said about 10 BDR personnel dragged the students into the other side of the border while they were going to their school. One of the students was severely beaten up by the intruders as he resisted. The kidnapping was stated to be "in retaliation" for an earlier incident in the same area, about five km from here on Feb. 7 when local villagers joined the Border Security Force men in encountering 'a raiding' BDR party. The BSF has been asked to take up the kidnapping incident with their counterparts in Bangladesh, according to officials. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Feb 85 p 9]

PAKISTAN-SIKH TIES DENIED--AMRITSAR, February 16 (PTI)--THE Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has reportedly denied an allegation that during the June army action last year Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale had threatened him at gunpoint to declare the creation of "Khalistan". The Akali Dal chief, at present lodged under the National Security Act in Udaipur jail in a letter in Gurmukhi to the party leadership is reported to have refuted allegations in this respect made by the CPM leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, at the central committee meeting of the CPM on January 18 last. The letter was sent through a lawyer who met the Akali leader in jail earlier

this month. The letter asserted that Bhindranwale did not have any links with Pakistan. "Though we were not on speaking terms, I can say with authority that Sant Bhindranwale had never depended on Pakistan for any support whatsoever nor was he in league with that country", the letter said. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Feb 85 p 9]

NONALIGNED MEETING PLANS--NEW DELHI, Feb. 19--A poor country like Angola, which has offered to host an inter-summit meeting of non-aligned Foreign Ministers in September next, is obliged to charter a Swedish luxury liner to accommodate the 1000 odd Ministers, senior officials and media men expected to attend the conference. As the capital city of Launda has only one good hotel, the Angolan Government has decided to charter a ship at a cost of several million dollars, since it is not possible to build more hotels in time for this conference. The conference itself will be held in the hotel and some of the more important Foreign Ministers will be accommodated there. The rest of the participants will have to stay on the luxury liner which will have all the facilities for catering and entertainment. The meeting of the non-aligned Coordination Bureau, which will be held in Delhi in April to discuss the Namibian situation, will be relatively a small affair, since not more than a couple of hundred are expected to attend it. After the recent six-nation summit, it will be a major international gathering in Delhi. The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, will address the meeting in his capacity as the current chairman of the non-aligned movement. [G. K. Reddy] [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Feb 85 p 9]

CSO: 4600/1379

IRAN

KHOMEYN ACRYLIC FACTORY INAUGURATED BY MUSAVI

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 85 p. 2

/Text/ Khomeyn--KEYHAN Correspondent. Simultaneously with the godly blessed "10-days of Dawn" ceremonies of the Islamic revolution and the Day of Self-sufficiency, the largest acrylic factory in the township of Khomeyn became operational and was inaugurated in the presence of our prime minister, Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi. According to our correspondent, Engineer Shafe'i, the minister of industries; Hojjat ol-Eslam Rezvani, director of the Administrative Judicial Court; the managing director of the Bank of Industry and Mines; Hojjat ol-Eslam Jalali Khomeyni, the Friday imam of Khomeyn and representative of the imam; Khajeh Piri, governor general of the Central Province; Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammed Ali Ghoreyshi, representative of Khomeyn inhabitants in the Islamic parliament and other local and Central Provincial responsible officials were present during the inauguration ceremonies. Engineer Taheri, managing director of the Khomeyn acrylic factory stated: "The Khomeyn acrylic factory was established with a nine billion rial investment and a temporary daily production capacity of nine tons of acrylic thread which can be increased to 18 tons per day."

He went on to indicate: "Fortunately, all the raw materials necessary for this factory are supplied by the polyacryl factory of Esfahan, therefore, no foreign exchange will be needed to purchase raw materials."

Thereafter, Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, made some statements in a speech regarding the importance of the role of the workers in economic expansion and the objective of the Islamic Republic regarding the elimination of shortages in certain areas which should be given priority over other regions.

Then he visited various sections of the factory and at the end of his visit, during an interview with mass media correspondents, concerning the significance of the operation and utilization of this industrial unit stated: "This factory, which is being inaugurated during the blessed "10-days of Dawn," is the result of the efforts of our skilled brothers and our dear Iranian workers who have always relied on their own faith and initiative. Let's hope that in the future

this factory not only reaches its nominal capacity, but exceeds it too."

The prime minister went on to add: "The efforts and struggles of the workers in the factories is comparable to the acts of our Islamic warriors at the battlefield against the world arrogance. It should be noted here that the arrogant powerful nations do not only create mischief or set up plots against the Islamic Republic on the battlefield alone, but they are busy hatching plots in the economic field as well. In reality, the inauguration of this factory symbolizes our nation's perseverance in both the economic field and on the war front. Through this act we demonstrated that besides being capable of handling the war, we are also able to stand against the complex and sophisticated weapons of the great powers." The prime minister indicated: "We ought to have a reasonable rate of economic expansion."

Afterwards, Engineer Musavi, the prime minister, attended a gathering of the martyr-nurturing people of Khomeyn at the Martyr Motahari Stadium and in a speech indicating the plots of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic, stated: "God willing, we will continue with the war until final victory. We will reconstruct our economy even more; this is something that can only be done with the presence of the people on the scene." The prime minister indicated that our nation fortunately has learned the secret of perseverance and no longer fears the enemy. He went on to say: "It is you, the faithful and the revolutionary forces of the towns and villages who manage the revolution, as a result of your efforts, our country has been transformed into a strong and insurmountable fortress which is dependent only on God." Continuing his trip to Khomeyn, the prime minister attended a meeting of the governors, mayors, lieutenant governors and other responsible officials of the Central Province and closely studied the problems facing them.

12719

CSO: 4640/392

IRAN

CALLS MADE FOR UNITY BETWEEN SHI'ITES, SUNNIS

GF091838 Bandar Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] A ceremony was held to commemorate the martyrs of the steadfast and martyr-rearing town of Dezful civilian and other areas of our Islamic home, which were hit by rockets by the Ba'thist aggressors. This attack dragged some of our innocent compatriots through mud and blood.

The ceremony was held last Thursday in Bandar 'Abbas' Kufeh Mosque. According to a report sent by the correspondent of the Central News Unit, the Imam's representative and the Friday Imam of Bandar 'Abbas, the deputy from Hormozgan Province in the Council of Guardians, the acting governor general of Hormozgan, officials and members of the revolution organizations, and officials and civil servants of government offices, commanders, and personnel of the armed forces, and security forces of the province and the Muslim and martyr-rearing people of Bandar 'Abbas attended the ceremony.

After recitations from the Holy Koran, poems were read mourning the martyrs of Dezful and other civilian areas. Then Hojjat-ol Eslam Kamali, one of the wise clergymen of Tehran, gave a speech. He gave a history of struggles of Muslims against heretics. He gave reasons for the plots of the Eastern and Western superpowers and their mercenaries against the Islamic revolution.

He stressed the importance of unity between Sunni and Shi'ite brothers and said this unity is a severe blow to those who sow the seeds of dissent. He said this unity would demolish the evil plots of these Godforsaken trouble-makers. He praised the role of the clergy in mobilization and the popular movement of the Islamic ummah in the face of aggression by the criminal forces of Saddam. He asked for further strengthening of the battle fronts between right and wrong.

Then the participants chanted Islamic and revolutionary slogans and condemned the evil actions of the Zionist Ba'thist regime in Iraq and their rocketing and bombing of civilian areas of the Islamic homeland. They asked for the continuation of the war until the end of aggression and until the toppling of the Zionist Saddam.

CSO: 4640/456

IRAN

ELECTRIC DAM WITH 2000 MEGAWATT POWER TO BE BUILT

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 85 p 3

/Text/ RASHT-KEYHAN Correspondent. Dr Qafuri-Fard, the minister of energy, who arrived in the province of Gilan to arrange for water utilization from the Safid Rud Dam, made some statements regarding the matter of removing sediment from the Safid Rud Dam, the amount of allocated credit in the year 1364 /21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986/, some programs which are under consideration and other similar issues in an interview with our correspondent.

First, on the reason for his trip to Gilan, Dr Qafuri-Fard stated: "The main purpose of my trip to Gilan is the matter of water utilization from Safid Rud Dam where the removal of sediments was successfully carried out after a period of about five months. This year alone, more than 142 million tons of sediment have been removed from the Safid Rud Dam--the total amount of dredged sediment has reached more than 300 million tons. After the completion of the dredging operation, it was thought that the volume of the dam would reach 700 million cubic meters; however, because proper measures were taken in the process, the capacity was increased to 1.3 billion cubic meters. Fortunately, our worries over a water shortage for the plains of Gilan thus far have been obviated." As regards the problem of sedimentation at other dams, he went on to say: "Unfortunately, the problem of sedimentation is present at all the dams. The main reason for this is that the water flow at Iranian rivers is not properly controlled, and the result of this lack of proper control is most evident at the Safid Rud Dam. However, it should be noted that the problem is not only confined to that of dredging, but that the sedimentation is composed of the very best and irrigable soils of the country which cause a loss of more than one billion cubic meters of our best agricultural lands every year. This is the point at issue."

Regarding the allocation of credits for the next year and the matter of dam construction in the 5-year plan, the minister of energy stated: "The amount of credits necessary for the supply of potable, industrial and agricultural water is about 75 billion rials." He also added: "Jiroft, Toroq, Kardeh, Pishin and Saveh dams are still under construction. God willing, by next year two of these dams will be ready for utilization. The largest dam scheduled to be built during

the 5-year plan of the Ministry of Energy is the third Karun dam. This dam will be one of the largest Iranian dams and will be capable of producing up to 1,000 megawatts of electricity."

According to our correspondent, on the fourth day of the "10-days of Dawn" ceremonies, an exhibition of photographs, paintings, miniatures and graphics was inaugurated by Dr Qafuri-Fard, minister of energy, and Rahmani, governor general of Gilan.

12719

CSO: 4640/392

NEPAL

LOW LEVEL OF U.S. AID TO NEPAL TERMED 'PUZZLING'

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 8 Feb 85 p 2

[Editorial: "Puzzling"]

[Text] Aid figures--like any set of statistics--are apt to conceal at least as much as they reveal. Yet, even on the pain of being accused of looking a gift horse in the mouth, the reported increase in U.S. aid that is in store for this country in fiscal 1986, which begins in October this year, is most nominal. As much is evident from a RSS account which we carried yesterday reporting that the increment for 1986, as compared with the corresponding figure for 1985, was a mere U.S.\$1.3 million, as reflected in the federal U.S. budget presented by President Reagan to Congress this week. For fiscal 1985 U.S. assistance earmarked for Nepal amounted to U.S.\$16.2 million, U.S.\$15 million being allocated for development assistance, U.S.\$1.1 million dollars in PL-480 title and one hundred thousand dollars for international military education and training.

But why should an increment of 8 percent, or from \$16.2 million to 17.5 million dollars, be considered low? This will be clear from a comparative study of relevant U.S. aid figures proposed to the U.S. Congress for fiscal 1986 for other South Asian countries. In fact though note must be taken of the "severe budget stringency"--to quote Mr Richard Derham, U.S. assistant aid administrator--what stands out most prominently in this regard is not so much the 8 percent increase--which by itself may not be considered all that insignificant--but the slender size of the overall U.S. aid packet. Though in all fairness it must be noted that our U.S. aid figure for fiscal 1986 has increased--unlike India's which slumped from U.S.\$212 million to U.S.\$178.9 million--it hardly shines in comparison with the corresponding figures for other South Asian countries.

Though Pakistan--which has been allocated the most U.S. aid in all of Asia amounting to U.S. \$655.7 million for 1986 as against the figure of U.S.\$630 million for 1985--may not be a very good example for comparative purposes, given its overwhelming military arms sales/security component, a fairer example is Sri Lanka which is to obtain U.S.\$62.4 million for 1986, a figure that is nearly four times that of the corresponding one for Nepal. Therein lies the rub. In fact, though no right-minded person in Nepal can argue the case for Nepal to get the level of U.S. aid that Pakistan does, it is much more difficult to explain the huge difference in the U.S.'s aid disbursement pattern

between Nepal and Sri Lanka. After all, not only are the two nonaligned South Asian states about the same in size and population, they even have about the same kind of voting record in the UN and other fora where the U.S. interest is concerned.

Though this is hardly to suggest that Nepal should tailor her foreign policy on the basis of aid received or expected, it is difficult to understand why, as Dr Henry Kissinger publicly admitted in Kathmandu recently, the level of U.S. assistance to Nepal should be so low as compared to that given to other countries of the region. And the sense of puzzlement can only be compounded by the thought that the two countries enjoy a relationship that has generally been marked by cordiality and understanding ever since diplomatic relations were established between the two in 1947. In other words, though it is true that not all bilateral relationships can be measured by the quantum of aid from one to the other--consider, for instance, U.S.-Japan relations in this regard--there would certainly appear to be a very cogent case for significantly, if only gradually, increasing U.S. development assistance to Nepal to the level of Sri Lanka which, unlike Nepal, is not an LDC.

CSO: 4600/306

NEPAL

NEPALI CONGRESS DEBATES FUTURE ACTIONS

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 11 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] The banned Nepali Congress is seriously preparing a list of its cadres who are prepared to fill the prisons if a future action of the outlawed party prompted the Government to launch mass arrest of politicians.

Informed sources say the banned party would hold discussions on the topic at the forthcoming national convention at the highest level.

Seniormost leaders such as G.M. Singh and Girija Koirala have returned recently after consultations with their cadres on issues to be discussed at the national convention.

Outstanding topics for the national convention are the civil disobedience movement and the alternative to the existing Panchayat System. G.M. Singh has championed the cause of the civil disobedience movement for restoring democracy in Nepal. He has been assisted by the banned Party Chairman K.P. Bhattarai.

Brother of late B.P. Koirala has been emphasising the need to look for alternative to the Panchayat democracy. The issue seems to have divided the banned congress into factions. However, champions of both issues have clarified through press statements that they have no differences at all. The so-called talk on the divided banned Congress is the luxury phrase of the Panchas, they are learnt to have stated.

The Government has already decided to disrupt the outlawed Congress meet if the organisers hold the conclave in the open. There is no reason why the outlawed Congressmen not recognised by law, should be given the opportunity to organise public functions' sources close to the Administration said.

CSO: 4600/306

NEPAL

GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 13 Feb 85 pp 1, 6

[Text] His Majesty's Government, in accordance with the Royal Guidelines and Directives issued Monday at the end of Their Majesties' month-long, unofficial tour of the Western Development Region that began on January 15, has decided to maintain the policy of providing as much incentive to the private entrepreneurs through the medium of the industrial districts or estates.

His Majesty the King had in the guidelines and directives issued to His Majesty's Government instructed that by mobilising private sector energy, skill and capital the pace of industrialisation be accelerated with a view to producing basic essential goods in the country itself to meet the national demand.

After reviewing the present work pattern and thinking, says the government, necessary steps will be taken in the direction of how to inject efficiency and production-oriented outlook in the industrial sector.

As far as the industrial districts or estates which have attained satisfactory operational level are concerned, the physical infrastructure built therein will be sold to the industrialists concerned at the current price level and the capital thus raised will be used to give them some additional basic facilities. From now onwards the industrialists will be encouraged to build their own buildings within the industrial complex. They will be provided road facility, sewerage, water, electricity and land.

The sum of 800 thousand rupees required for buying 500 K.V.A. transformer and metre for the Pokhara Industrial Estate will be released next fiscal year, and in tenders government offices will be able to pay up to 10 percent more for goods produced in Nepal than for imported foreign goods, it is stated.

The ceiling on size of loans that can be approved by regional offices under the Nepal Industrial Development Corporation will be raised from one million to one million and 500 thousand rupees if possible, it is also stated.

Regarding the guidelines for making the region self-sufficient in fish, meat, milk and milk products, additional incentives will be given for development of fishery by using the experience so far gained in the field of fishery.

Fish raising will be encouraged in rivers, ponds and streams including the alpine areas in the hills. For this, training will be organised on fishery. Livestock development and veterinary service will be conducted in a coordinated manner.

Time-bound programmes will be undertaken to attain the set objectives in the 7th plan period in order to make the region self-sufficient in fish, meat and milk.

Farmers will be given necessary training to provide them with the technical aspect in taking care of animals for production of milk. They will also be provided with loan and other necessary materials. The process for such things will be simplified.

Pasture will be developed in the mid-hills.

Referring to the need for giving adequate attention to both the financial and technical aspect for undertaking microhydel projects, it is said that efforts will be made on the basis of the experience so far gained in the field so that microhydel plants could be undertaken with minimum of cost. While doing so the difficulty experienced in the management of microhydel plants because of inadequate supervision in the stage of survey and designing will be taken into consideration. In order not to commit such a mistake due care will be taken in the very beginning including the cost involved in the transportation of construction materials and equipment. For this, local skill will be developed and local resources utilized to the maximum possible extent to reduce the cost of such projects.

Necessary measures will be taken to produce necessary equipment used in microhydel plants. Necessary incentives will be given for the purpose. In the meanwhile, priority will be given to undertake microhydel projects which can be productively used. Due consideration will also [be] given to use power to be generated from such microhydel plants for lift irrigation.

As for developing road networks to link the Daulagiri zone of the region construction of the Pokhara-Baglung road will be completed as soon as possible. Likewise, construction of feeder road linking Dumre with Besi Sahar, the headquarters of Lamjung of the Prithvi Highway will be initiated under time-bound programme. Construction of Tansen-Ridi-Tamghas road will also be initiated after working out the cost estimates for the bridge to be constructed over the Ridi river.

Likewise, construction of the feeder road linking Taulihawa the headquarters of Kapilvastu of the Mahendra highway will also be completed under the time-bound programme. The feeder road linking Gorusinge of the Mahendra highway with Sandhikarka the headquarters of Arghakhanchi district will also be completed under the timebound programme.

With a view to converting the zonal hospital at Pokhara into regional hospital necessary budget will be set aside in the next fiscal year. Zonal hospitals to be set up in zones and other regions will be developed on the line of making them self-reliant like the one in Gandaki zone in the 7th plan.

Sajha drug store will be opened within the premises of the Gandaki Zonal Hospital. Arrangement will be made to ensure that the hospital is well manned. The emergency ward will never be without the required number of

doctors. District level hospital will be set up in Parbat and Manang districts but for the present health posts will be set up there. It will also be seen that there is at least one health post in each of the area of districts.

An appropriate unit will be set up to coordinate the service of the Royal Nepal Airlines, Royal Nepal Army air service and that of UNDP to overcome the problem of internal transportation of construction and development materials in the Western Development Region.

Keeping in view the limited number of aircraft in the country, necessary arrangement will also be made for air transport system.

Arrangement will also be made through coordination in the transportation of foodgrains and other materials in order to ensure a market for the fruits produced in the region. (RSS)

CSO: 4600/306

NEPAL

ADMINISTRATION CRITICIZED FOR INACTIVITY

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 14 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Teaching a Baby To Walk"]

[Text] The monthlong official tour of Their Majesties the King and Queen of the western development region concluded the other day. The exhaustive directives and guidelines given by His Majesty the King at the end of the unofficial tour of the region to HMG should go a long way for gradual transformation of the region. His Majesty's concern for development of the region is clearly reflected in the directives and guidelines given to the government. His Majesty has in fact clearly outlined every thing in detail about how the government should start working. The details include even construction of human trails and mule tracks that need to be built at particular places in a given period of time on the one hand and long term plans on the other like making the development region economically self-sufficient through the development of livestock, irrigation facility, horticulture, cottage industries, microhydel plants for productive purposes, construction of roads and feeder roads linking different district headquarters.

One thing which is quite distressing to note is the fact how long it can be possible for His Majesty to go on pinpointing every detail of development and construction works that the government should do. The task is extremely strenuous and nerve-racking for His Majesty. The government has to be told by His Majesty even to supply corrugated sheets for roofing school buildings and such other things. After all, what is a government for if it does not know what needs to be done where? The Ministers have been traveling to all parts of the country mostly in copters and meeting delegations from all the 75 districts every year, yet they do not know what they should do. It is like an endless process of teaching a baby to walk.

CSO: 4600/306

NEPAL

GOVERNMENT URGED NOT TO 'VULGARIZE' ZOP CONCEPT

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 11 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Don't Vulgarize ZOP"]

[Text] His Majesty King Birendra's proposal that Nepal be declared a Zone of Peace is one of the noblest concepts which Nepal has been championing for the past decade or so. Nothing can be nobler than the idea of ensuring peace for development of a poor country like Nepal. Peace Zone Nepal can be a step forward for making the entire Indian Ocean region a Zone of Peace. It is satisfying to note that more and more countries have been endorsing Nepal's ZOP including one of the two superpowers. We have reason to be proud enough but, realistically speaking, not to the extent desired. It should go without saying that India's support for the noble concept is something we cannot do without. Maybe HMG of Nepal has not been able to explain the implications involved in the concept to India or the government has failed to understand Indian attitude towards Nepal. Now that a youthful Prime Minister is there in India without inhibition, efforts should be made to convince India why Nepal wants to be a declared ZOP. If by the proposal we mean bilateral agreement for peace and friendship as stated by Dr Tulsi Giri when he was the country's Prime Minister nearly a decade ago, negotiations should be initiated along the line without mincing words. At any rate, the noble concept should not be turned into slogan-mongering as seems being done at present by forming peace zone committees of all kinds and holding exhibitions on peace zone. Such things mean very little for eliciting support for the concept. We do not have to convince anybody that aspirations of Nepali people are embodied in the proposal. But the cheap means we seem to be adopting can only vulgarize the concept. We are not, however, against the idea of forming ZOP Committee including all intellectuals that matter. Such a committee can in fact do what the government cannot do.

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NEPAL

WESTERN REGION'S DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 13 Feb 85 p 2

[Commentary by Mukti R. Rijal: "Western Development Region: A Development Profile"]

[Text] The credible achievements of western development region in the task of construction and development wouldn't have been possible had not His Majesty the King given creative guidance touring every part, far and near in this region.

The Western development region comprises 3 zones with 16 districts, 5 town panchayats and 896 village panchayats. This region is one-fifth of the size of our country and has a population of 3.2 million. The western development region encompasses varied topographical features, unique landscapes--precipitous mountains, expanse plains, valleys to arm this region with many vistas and prospects of development.

Not many years have gone by since the idea of balanced regional development of our country was put into effect, but meaningful results have already surfaced in steadily accelerating rate. And the western development region has been major beneficiary with considerable headway in many areas of development. This has been largely among others due to His Majesty's successive tours in this region and Royal directives to spur development without sparing even the most remote of nooks and corners of the country.

Prized Site

The western development region has undergone substantial changes in respect of industrial development. A region with no mark in the industrial scene of the country has turned to be the prized site of many industrial enterprises. Along with two industrial estates, i.e. Pokhara Industrial estate and Birtwal Industrial estate, Bhairahawa, Krishnagar, Baglung have also come up as the important sites for the localization of industries. According to the latest available estimates, there are 1,900 small and rural-scale industries in this region of which, barring cottage and small industries, 22 and 14 industries are in the Pokhara industrial estate and Butwal industrial estate respectively. Of the industries, produces of the few as Gandaki Noodles Pvt. Ltd. and Gorkha Biscuits Factory have won high acclaim to cater to an supply domestic needs and

substitute imports from outside. In this way on the completion of many industrial projects which are underway, this region alone would go a long way in furthering the cause of industrialization of our country.

Significant Strides

The Western development region has registered significant, unrivalled strides in the development of transport and communication. Altogether one thousand and ninety kilometers of motorable road have been already constructed in this region linking 10 districts out of a total of 16 districts. Siddhartha Highway (205), 226 km of Mahendra Highway and nearly 80 km of Prithvi Highway in particular and many other feeder routes run through the heart of this region as the important channel of transportation. Many road projects as Tansen-Tamghas Gorusinghia-Sandhi-Pokhara are nearing completion to act as the connecting link with hills to hills and hills to terai.

In respect of communication this development region is well facilitated next to only the central development region. A radio transmitting station of hundred kilowatt has been operating here by dint of which all 16 district of this region are benefitted. Four town panchayats have local telephone facilities so far.

The western development is rich in water resources and considerable efforts have been launched to harness this asset of development for multipronged buses. As far irrigation is concerned the latest available statistics record that irrigation facilities have been provided to the thousand of hectares of land through the 16 recently completed irrigation projects. Another 23 irrigation projects are underway and two of them are tapping ground water for irrigation purpose.

Minihydel projects have been supplying power to light most of the district headquarters in this region.

In respect of drinking water facilities, more than 15% of the population have access to the facilities of water at their doorsteps. 39 drinking water projects which are underway would increase significantly the number of people having easy access to drinking water doorsteps.

In the field of education and other social services this region is far ahead of many others. People even in the remote areas have the opportunities to send their children to school, and the number of educational institutions from primary schools to campuses have been on the increases. The rate of literacy in this region is 26%, that is above the national percentage.

Many governmental and nongovernmental agencies are working to provide sorts of social services in this region. Hospitals, health centres and posts are multiplying to serve the people's health better. In the tourism sector too, Pokhara, Lumbini, Jomsom in particular have made rapid advancement in drawing progressive numbers of tourists. Thus, these all things summed together, the development profile of western development region has reasonable ground to look with optimism and success.

The credible achievements of western development region in the task of construction and development wouldn't have been possible had not His Majesty the King given creative guidance touring every part far and near in this region.

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PAKISTAN

ASGHAR KHAN SAID TO BE MISLEAD BY SOVIET PROPAGANDA ON AFGHANISTAN

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 4 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Asghar Khan--In the Soviet Trap"]

[Text] No one doubts retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan's patriotism, and he certainly deserves tribute, too, for the valor, determination and fortitude he has demonstrated to exalt democratic values. As for the Afghanistan issue, however, in whatever he says from time to time about it, he displays either a lack of political insight and total unawareness of international affairs, or else, merely being opposed to the present rulers and eager to say everything against them, he issues erroneous statements. Whatever the situation may be, it does not befit the dignity of a leader like Asghar Khan.

In his statement, Mr Asghar Khan has said that "the Afghanistan issue has been brought about by Pakistan. Since the establishment of Pakistan, every regime that has ruled it up to the present day has suppressed Afghanistan so much that it was forced to draw closer to the Soviet Union. Whatever is happening in Afghanistan today is the result of such policies. With regard to this issue, Pakistan is now caught up in the struggle between the big powers. Just as America was suppressed in Vietnam, so it wishes to suppress the Soviet Union now. America will never allow the Afghanistan issue to be resolved, nor can this issue be resolved through the United Nations. Its only solution is that the Pakistani Government enter into a dialogue with Babrak Karmal."

As far as the Afghanistan issue is concerned, it is not something new but very old. In nondivided India, the danger of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan was always an important issue for British politics. The Soviet Union did succeed, several times, in establishing its influence over Afghanistan. Nevertheless, it was finally decided that Afghanistan should be kept neutral and that no power should try to gain control over it; otherwise, this region would become a battlefield for the two superpowers. The Afghan leaders, too, adopted such neutral politics. The problem, however, was that they did not remain neutral concerning Pakistan. They agreed to live with British power in a peaceful and friendly environment, but when Pakistan was founded, they were not prepared for the same peace and friendship with it. Their opposition to Pakistan began from the very first day of its establishment. Afghanistan was the only country in the world that refused in the United Nations to accept the new government of Pakistan and started mischief about Pakhtunistan. It asserted its claim over Pakistan's wide and expansive area, and then to turn this claim into a

reality, it distributed money in Pakistan. It launched a propaganda campaign and appointed agents and subversives in Pakistan. Despite all this, Pakistan made every possible effort for friendship with Afghanistan. The Shah of Iran intervened, and the Islamic institutions and organizations tried, but the relations between the two countries did not improve. In Afghanistan, individuals like Zahir Shah, Sardar Daud, Turkayi and Hafizullah Amin, in other words, anyone who tried to move forward toward better relations with Pakistan had his government overthrown by Soviet conspiracies. The entire world, with the exception of the Soviet Union and a few of its allies, condemns the present occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Army. Many communist countries also declare the Soviet Union guilty in this matter. India, however, is the only country that, in a desire to become an industrial and military power with Soviet aid, is not prepared to speak the truth in this regard. Nevertheless, the Indian rulers also have admitted at every occasion that they dislike the presence of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan and want it withdrawn. However, they have their own method of procedure in this regard, and they do not consider the attitude of Pakistan or the Western countries to be correct. As for Afghanistan, the Indian opposition party, ignoring the Indian Government, has unanimously declared Pakistan to be innocent and the Soviet Union guilty. This is the very viewpoint held by all of the Muslim countries, all of the European countries, many communist countries and the communist parties of many countries. Against all that, Asghar Khan's opinion is that Pakistan is blame-worthy regarding the Afghan issue. But how can Pakistan be held responsible against the background that has been described above. The truth of the matter is that the Soviet Union, not only today but for the past two centuries, has had evil intentions regarding Afghanistan. It has demonstrated these intentions from time to time. The entry of the Soviet Army into Afghanistan was not under some compulsion; rather it was the result of a policy based on those very evil intentions.

Mr Asghar Khan has declared Pakistan guilty of putting constant pressure on Afghanistan, but the circumstances and the incidents are before us. Afghanistan went on sending persons from Kabul to explode bombs on our borders. An effort was being made on behalf of Afghanistan to promote the slogan of Pakhtunistan in Pakistan. The Afghan rulers went on about not accepting the Daverend Line as the border. Actually, all this was being done as a result of the Indian conspiracy. India, on one side, was putting pressure on us from its own borders, and on the other side, it wished to do the same from the Afghan borders. This pressure was being put on us constantly and we continued to tolerate it. Isn't it a fact that through the NAP leaders and organizations, Afghanistan tried many times to create disruption in our region? Wasn't Ajmal Khatak, who was the secretary general of the NAP and a refugee in Kabul, an instrument working for Afghanistan? Were the Afghani agents of similar stripe, who were constantly engaged in their disruptive activities, demonstrating a desire for good relations with Pakistan? The truth of the matter is that the Afghan rulers had donned the blindfold of animosity with Pakistan from the start. That is why they were unable to see that this would benefit the Soviet Union, which, for the past century, has been dreaming of bringing Afghanistan under its imperialism. Way before the establishment of Pakistan, European intellectuals, authors and military analysts wrote books stating clearly that one day the Soviet Union would definitely enter Afghanistan with

its army. Therefore, if the Soviet Army has entered Afghanistan, Pakistan is not to be blamed for that; rather, its underlying factors go far back and it was planned at a time when Pakistan did not even exist. The search for warm water and a passage to Asia and the Middle East has been a permanent problem for both the ancient and the new Isars. The Soviet Army entered Afghanistan to solve this very problem. Therefore, to hold Pakistan responsible for that is to ridicule reality and try to prove it wrong.

Mr Asghar Khan demands freedom for the Pakistani people. He argues for their basic and democratic rights. But aren't the people of Afghanistan human beings? Aren't they entitled to any fundamental right and don't they qualify for freedom? Why doesn't Asghar Khan open his mouth to condemn Soviet imperialism, which intends to subdue his Muslim brothers by force?

Mr Asghar Khan has said that America wishes to make Afghanistan a Vietnam for the Soviet Union, so that, with the Afghan war front, there remains the same pressure on the Soviet Union of which America itself was a victim in the past. But if this is what America wants, why does the Soviet Union knowingly embrace another Vietnam? The Soviet Union is not foolish. It realizes that if not today, tomorrow, after reaching some agreement with the United States, the ports of this area will be divided. The Soviet Union will take something or other, even while departing. Another reason for the Soviet advancement in Afghanistan is that it wishes to loosen the U.S. position in the Middle East in order to gain freedom for itself in Afghanistan. However, all of these imperialist politics and intentions, whether they belong to the United States or the Soviet Union, can never remain in the future world. That era, whereby the big powers sell the nations like a flock of goats and sheep, is flying past now. One day, Afghanistan itself, which now is struggling to gain release from the claws of the Soviet Union, will definitely emerge as a free and neutral country. Pakistan desires nothing but freedom and neutrality for Afghanistan. Whenever talks are held, Pakistan tries to convince Afghanistan by providing all sorts of guarantees in this regard. It appears now, however, that for the time being, the Soviet Union does not want to resolve the Afghanistan issue. In fact, it is using Afghanistan to put pressure on Pakistan, so that, Pakistan, after getting nervous and demolished, surrenders to the Soviet Union. Sadly enough, people like Asghar Khan, too, can fall into the trap of Soviet policy, and in the excitement of opposing the regime of the moment, overlook the facts.

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PAKISTAN

ELECTION PARTICIPATION URGED EVEN THOUGH ONLY REHEARSAL

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 22 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Elections--Even Though Only a Rehearsal"]

[Text] The effort made by the administration through high level contact with the MRD parties to include them in the elections has failed. The meeting of the MRD leaders held at Abbot Abad has produced no positive results. Therefore, the administration, for the time being, has arrested Nawabzadah Nasrullah and sent him to Kote Lakhpat jail. Malik Qasim has been put under house arrest for 3 months. A house-to-house search is under way for the arrest of Malik Hakimeen. It is possible that more people will be arrested. The aim of this probably is to give the impression that if the MRD is not prepared to soften up for reconciliation, the administration, too, will remain firm in its position, and the weakness that was exhibited for the sake of reconciliation will now be rectified with a strong stand and actions. However, easy such thinking is, it is difficult to act upon, because there is pressure on the current administration from all sides for reconciliation and mutual understanding. Only on this basis did Jatoi and Asghar Khan gain release. To suddenly release people for the meeting at Abbot Abad and at the same time to withdraw the law of being undeserving, demonstrates that the administration, by ignoring those politicians, cannot act according to its own wishes and that reconciliation and mutual understanding are its fundamental requisites. Even if there is no external or internal pressure for this reconciliation or mutual understanding, still, it was in the interest of the administration to follow the path of reconciliation. This course was taken, but only after considerable delay, and this is the real cause of all the trouble. If the administration was convinced of the need and importance of reconciliation with the MRD, it should have voiced this desire explicitly much earlier, and it should have started a dialogue with it without any hesitation, shame or fear. But this was being postponed, and it was presumed that when, at the last moment, it would express a desire to reconcile, the MRD, if not totally at least a major part of it, would be sitting ready to reconcile, and upon receiving the signal for reconciliation, it would immediately come forward to settle the issue according to the administration's wishes. The meeting at Abbot Abad, however, has proved this perception to be wrong. This has made the country's political situation very complicated. The responsibility for this entanglement rests with the leaders of the MRD, too, who wish to achieve all they want instantly and do not believe in the strategem of

proceeding gradually. Undoubtedly, the one and only solution of this political issue is that the elections be held on a party basis under the 1973 constitution and election process. But if there is no possibility of this model method, whatever form for the elections that appears possible should be accepted. Even if these are not real elections, there is no harm in accepting them as a rehearsal for elections. At present, the issue is that if all nonpolitical people and "yes sirs" gain control of the assemblies, there will be no war fought in the assemblies for the supremacy of the 1973 constitution. The ruling sector will be free to act upon its own plans and do as it likes. The demand of this situation was that the MRD and the individuals of the parties connected with it had appeared in the field to participate in the elections and that a positive decision should have been made in this regard in the meeting at Abbot Abad. This, however, was not done. Perhaps they believe that the administration will be forced to go back on its word and that in order to have a dialogue with them, the elections will be postponed; which, in a way, would be a great victory for them. The psychological impact of this victory would instantly make them a victorious party, while the administration would appear to be defeated. To what extent this viewpoint is correct depends on the forthcoming circumstances and events. Nevertheless, the only thing that makes us sad is that the nation has already wasted 7 1/2 years. The political issue, instead of being resolved, appears to be getting more complicated. God forbid that this situation becomes a cause of wasting more years of the national life and the elections that are about to take place turn sour again. Because election, no matter what type are they, are a means of terminating political inactivity and fostering political advancement. The main thing is that the elections be held in such a way that all the political elements of the nation participate in them. This alone will be true elections and in the true sense, fruitful. But if it is not so, even then to postpone the elections would be wrong, because compared with no election or a new martial law, elections, whatever their type, should be considered a blessing. Through these elections, a political path can be created. For this reason, therefore, even if the elections are only a rehearsal, participation in this drill will not be futile, and something will definitely be gained.

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